



MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT
ELPIDIO QUIRINO
1948-1953

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Historical Papers and Documents

ADDRESSES AND SPEECHES

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Address of President Quirino at the tenth annual commencement exercises of Adamson University and on the occasion of his being conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws, “honoris causa”, April 28, 1948

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the tenth annual commencement exercises of Adamson University and on the occasion of his being conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws, “honoris causa”**

[Delivered at the St. Theresa’s College auditorium, April 28, 1948]

I have been summoned to this great seat of learning to be honored in the traditional glamour and splendor of academic paraphernalia and sheepskin. Having spent my lifetime exposed to the swift and swirling currents of practical life, I believe it timely and appropriate that on a time-honored occasion like this I draw those in the cloisters to the sidewalk of practical affairs and as a man of the world, bring to them the rugged beliefs as forged daily on the anvil of factual and actual experience.

We live in an era which may prove to be either the prelude to the millennium or the last in the history of mankind.

The contradiction between man’s desire for peace and man’s weapons for war finds expression in the cold conflict that is raging between democracy and communism. While constantly avowing a desire for peace, West and East are nervously waiting for war.

It is time for mankind to pause in its uncertain course and consider why there is such an appalling disparity between its capacity for peace and its capacity for war, why its noble desires and aspirations are invariably betrayed by its own deeds. Here and now, it is time for us to ask if the universities, which produce the thinkers and the leaders of every nation, have somehow failed in their task.

Higher learning first developed in cloisters. In the ancient world of Plato and Aristotle philosophy was dispensed to an exclusive set of students who followed their mentors to the meadows and woods of Athens and led detached lives. Much of the world’s learning also came from the religious sanctuaries and cathedrals where monks and priests crystallized much of human knowledge into theology, literature, philosophy, mathematics and science. Of necessity, the search for wisdom ignored the day-to-day affairs of the outside world and was directed exclusively to the quarrying of the rockbed of truths and facts as fossilized in past human experiences.

From such centers of research and meditation came the idea of the university and its basic function of pursuing truth. The character of universities and their mission have since undergone fundamental transformation. Gingerly and slowly, these institutions have tried to keep abreast of the contemporary world.

But in general university education still retains its detachment from life, still keeps its unconcern over many of the basic problems of peoples and nations. This is true with respect not only to the substance but also to the form of instruction. We continue to sacrifice the current and urgent facts of existence for the long-cataloged chronicles of battles, the long-proven theorems of mathematics, and the long-crystallized forms of dialectics. And we make students acquire all this as a part of their education, often without giving them an inkling of their relation and application to home and hearth, to the tribulations and turmoils of the world.

I realize that it is not only teachers and students who succumb to the fascination of ancient and medieval times.

Thrilled by the wisdom of Solomon and the boldness of Genghis Khan, some people now and then emerge from the musty volumes of history, and, like Archimedes, excitedly announce that they have found the solution to the complex problems of the present. I do not minimize the great contributions of the past to the accumulated wisdom of the world. But I do maintain that we must hold paramount the study and analysis of our country's position in the present world situation and direct all our efforts towards the practical and effective solution of the problems as they arise. To dig deep into the past for guidance may prove interesting to the scholastic mind but is unoriginal and uncreative as taking a rabbit out of a hat. Just as the generalship of Eisenhower and Mac Arthur was a vast improvement on that of Alexander the Great, so the method of solving our unique problems of today must be commensurately wiser than the statecraft of the Pharaohs of Egypt and the kings of Babylon.

Ivory-tower education has produced ivory-tower citizens. At home with Alexander the Great and Napoleon, they may not be helpful companions to Juan de la Cruz. No wonder it has often happened that the honor student in college becomes a mediocre man of affairs while the middling turns out to be a competent man of the world.

Educators seem to have sought to disguise the detachment of colleges and universities from the realities of everyday life by emphasizing extra-curricular activities consisting of literary programs, athletics and social parties that now and then give the student a taste of the common diet of mortal men. Without doubt, these projects serve some good purpose. It is regrettable, however, that, by creating in most young minds the wrong impression of values and merits, they may unwittingly foist wrong ideals for youth to emulate. The loquacious and bombastic, the social lion, the expensively-dressed and well-groomed has each wrongly become to adolescent minds the embodiment of the competent and complete man.

The precarious condition of the world is in a sense proof of the failure of education in general and university education in particular. It screams for a fundamental and radical educational reform, a reform that will add as a major objective of education the endowment of each graduate of a measure of practical statesmanship. This objective can be attained if the youth is properly exposed to the urgent problems of the nation and the world. Such exposure should result in familiarizing the student with the problems, in stimulating him to think and meditate on them, in inspiring him to seek their solution: in short, in making him part and parcel of daily life as he advances in his training while broadening his knowledge of the past to serve as a ballast.

In the Philippines, the new university education should introduce Filipino youth to the peculiar problems of our own times and, if possible, endow them with the ability to participate wisely and actively in their solution. The principle that universities should be instruments of the state for the good of its people is not new. Emperor Frederick II founded the University of Naples in 1224 expressly to train men to take a share in the administration of his empire, and, after the Reformation, universities more and more became active agencies in the attainment of the objectives of good government. This mission of the university subsequently became obscured by the clamor for academic freedom, the demand for research, and the effort to restore and reestablish the humanist traditions. There need be no fundamental incompatibility in all these objectives; we in the Philippines should be able to reconcile and muster them as additional active forces in the building of our new Republic. The present generation is confronted with problems and responsibilities far heavier than those ever faced by mankind. We must untangle the maze that confounds and confuses. Clear thinking, clean living, devotion to progress and to high ideals and principles which have ever kept mankind moving onward—let these be our guide.

Whether or not the international situation, now characterized as a cold war, will aggravate into a shooting war today or tomorrow or in the next few years, the Philippines can have no better way of preparing itself for peace, if peace there be, or war, if war must come, than by intensifying the training of men to meet the responsibilities required. If war should come, technical men will be of great assistance in producing the materials of war that may be necessary. If peace should continue, the same technical men could help produce the wealth that will bring prosperity and happiness to our people. Men with technical training in industrial engineering, mining, fishing, forest exploitation and other lines will be most useful to the Republic, both in war and peace. Technical training should be an immediate objective of university education so as to adequately supply the country with the urgently needed technicians in our vast program of reconstruction. Our unlimited potentialities so require and our future economic stability so demand.

The Adamson University is emphasizing technical training. In its effort to train technical men for the proper harnessing of our resources and man-power, it is rendering a unique service to the Philippines.

The Philippines has always been a great importer of foreign know-how. We have always hinted experts in all branches of knowledge from mining engineers to fishing-experts. That is because our preparation has not been as advanced as in other countries. However, there is no denying the wisdom of striving for self-sufficiency in technical education not only because this is one of the signs of national maturity, but also because men and women trained at home with the tools available and the materials on hand will in the long run create here the needed reserve to draw from for public service in times of necessity. Moreover, men and women trained in universities in this country, with curricula geared to local conditions, should prove not only better technicians but may in the long run also develop methods and tools of their own ingenuity suitable for local use. The process of adaptation to environment is not a matter of months or even years, but often of generations. The longer time, we have had in training technicians and the more experiences these technicians acquire from year to year and generation to generation. The greater will be the efficiency and productiveness resulting from their work.

The training of technical men need not wait for the decision as to whether or not the Philippines will continue to be an agricultural or become an industrial country. It will be a long long time before we can produce the number of technical men needed to man our existing industries. It will take still longer' time to train the number we shall need if we are to embark upon an intense program of industrialization. There is, therefore, 40 danger whatsoever of an oversupply of technical men. This is a field in which we have barely scratched the surface.

This is the challenge of our young Republic to our colleges and universities and their faculties; and students. It is a challenge which I hope this my new Alma Mater, the Adamson University, will meet with earnestness and determination. During its years of pioneering educational work, this great institution has ever been among those in the vanguard. Its solid accomplishments qualify it admirably to take the lead in making university education in the Philippines responsive to the solution of the immediate problems of our society, as it has so done in providing for the necessary industrial technical training of our youth.

President Adamson: To you and to your Board of Trustees, I wish to express my gratitude for the signal honor that you have accorded me by the conferment upon me of the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. I accept the honor with great humility resolved that, in all my acts henceforth, I shall render this institution a commensurate honor.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Address of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, at the tenth annual commencement exercises of Adamson University, on Wednesday afternoon, April 28, 1948, at the St. Theresa's College auditorium, on the occasion of his being conferred the degree of doctor of laws, "honoris causa". *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(4), 1339-1343.

Labor Day Address of President Quirino

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of Labor Day**

[Delivered at the Rizal Memorial Stadium, May 1, 1948]

I am deeply moved by the magnitude and orderliness of today's demonstration by the workers of the country. It is indicative of their re-awakening and of a new enlightened urge. It is expressive of a keen sense of responsibility, of a solidarity of purpose and of high objectives. I am most confident that under an unselfish and far-sighted leadership our workers can be counted upon to exert their combined power in the building of this new nation in such manner and measure that every element, through an implementation of the constitutional mandate, shall enjoy its just share of security, prosperity and happiness. I consider it my highest duty as head of this nation to insure the well-being and economic security of all the people, specially the poor and laboring classes from which I myself have risen, and I pledge myself to the carrying out of that duty to fruition.

Under the leadership of my illustrious predecessor, my dear friend, the late President Manuel Roxas, much was accomplished under this mandate. The enlightened decisions of the Court of Industrial Relations have already placed the workingman in a more secure position. His wages have been raised, his working conditions ameliorated, and his rights and privileges broadened and multiplied. Landed estates have been purchased to be subdivided and resold principally for the benefit of the laboring men on a fair and easy installment plan. The Government has begun opening vast virgin areas where both farm hands and industrial laborers may settle down to take advantage of new opportunities for better livelihood. Through its various agencies, the Government has developed and propagated improved fruits and vegetables and has popularized modern methods of agricultural and animal husbandry. Credit facilities have been extended to encourage the country's economic activities. We have in our statute books quite a number of good laws and regulations, indicating our deep concern for the welfare of labor. What is perhaps needed at this time is an honest-to-goodness application of these statutes with a view to a maximum realization of their beneficent purposes.

We all realize that the objectives already achieved do not by any means constitute the ultimate of our efforts. Not only must these various activities be widened in their application to insure to every citizen a share of their beneficent results but other betterments in the treatment of labor must be effected. To offer a plan of improvement at this moment when I barely have warmed the Chief Executive's chair would be presumptuous. It will be my determined endeavor, however, to see that our big army of peace—the thousands upon thousands of men and women who operate our factories and till our fields—will be maintained on the highest level of efficiency and contentment.

The objective of all enlightened governments is the promotion of the greatest good for the greatest number. Labor derives its importance from the fact that it is most numerous. It is also the sinews and bones of society without which no economic structure can subsist. The concern and solicitude of the Republic on the welfare of the workingman is made patent in our Constitution. The rights guaranteed him may not be disregarded with impunity. No citizen, no court, no Chief Executive may set them aside.

Our country is so blessed by kind Providence with wealth untold that there need be no apprehension that honest labor will not be rewarded. Our population is but a small portion of the maximum number that this vast wealth can support in contentment. There is enough of the good things of life allotted to our country and people by the Almighty. In His infinite wisdom He has endowed our land with fertile valleys, rich mineral resources and incomparable seas. As possessors of this wealth, it should be our duty as a people to make use of it and share it alike with industry and intelligence. There need be no disputes between labor and capital for both are necessary in this great endeavor.

The long-standing problem here as well as throughout the world is how to maintain the balance between labor and capital so that these two vital forces of our economy will joyfully exert their maximum efforts to increase constantly the usable wealth of the country and reap their just shares of the rewards of their endeavors. The coordination and synchronization of their activities have been the concern of every state. It shall be my daily preoccupation as it is my ambition to bring labor and capital together on a more equitable and workable basis of association.

Today, a day of dedication and glorification of labor, should be an occasion for all working men and women to reflect whether or not their aspiration to human rights and material betterment can be realized more swiftly and surely through cooperation rather than through disruption. Unlike other countries where labor upheavals have become a mode of conquest for power, the Philippines has seen a more constructive development of labor organizations. There is some fear, however, that their approach to labor problems and their new techniques for the attainment of labor justice may be so at variance that their energies may be dispersed and their common aims defeated. I earnestly hope that the labor elements now congregated in Manila will be cooperative and conciliatory in their deliberations since they pursue the same objectives and cherish the same aspirations and the same honest intentions. May this Labor Day mark a new era of understanding among the labor elements of the country.

At this stage of our economic reconstruction, I believe it timely that we re-examine the whole problem involving labor and capital to the end that we may eliminate the causes of friction and irritation, promote greater cooperation and understanding, and be able to muster every ounce of our energy for our basic objectives.

The present situation suggests the creation of a Labor-Capital Advisory Board, representing the leading elements of labor and capital as well as the Government, to give advice on labor policies. Such an instrumentality will be conducive to the proper and speedy development of the country in which labor and capital are the determining factors. I know of no better way of effecting this reexamination than the creation of this body of advisers. This instrumentality will also greatly assist the Government not only in formulating measures calculated to promote the vital interests of the country but also in the execution of such measures together with the laws and regulations precisely promulgated to achieve those high purposes. There can be no self-executing policy. It will-often be found necessary to supplement the letter and spirit of the law with a keener observance of human values and a deeper spirit of human justice in order to make up for the often inevitable flaws that develop in the course of execution.

It is not the aim of the Government to impose its will or to dictate the manner in which labor shall organize or its problems with capital shall be handled and solved. The role of the Government shall be that of a mere ballast, insuring stability and reason when conflicting and clashing interests threaten to get out of hand. The Labor-Capital Advisory Board will be a sort of a round table for labor and capital to discuss their mutual problems with open minds and in the spirit of goodwill. When on top of their accumulated differences labor and capital cannot reconcile themselves, it is the duty of the Government to step in and pave the way for understanding. That duty is inherent in its obligation to husband its manpower and capital resources in its supreme effort to raise the country from postwar paralysis and prostration. Only when labor and capital can exist side by side in a happy partnership can there be an assurance of economic recovery and progress.

I congratulate the convention for having taken the initial steps in unifying labor on the plane of reason. I foresee useful and fruitful results from its deliberations. This is no time to fritter away our energies in petty quarrels and rivalries that can disrupt our already shattered economy. This is the time for solidarity, for unity, for a new era of goodwill and understanding. I assure you that the Government will take a genuine interest in the achievement of such an end. I shall pray for its consummation.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Labor Day address of His Excellency, Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, at the Rizal Memorial Stadium, May 1, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(5), 1584-1587.

Address of President Quirino at the ceremony for the Repatriation of America's World War II dead

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the ceremony for the Repatriation of America's World War II dead**

[Delivered in Manila, May 15, 1948]

Once again we are gathered today, Filipinos and Americans, Americans and Filipinos, to honor our common heroes. From the warmth of the tropical earth which has claimed them temporarily as its own, we yield the mortal remains of gallant Americans whose dear ones at home long for their return to the land of their birth. Fighting side by side with Filipinos in the mountain fastnesses of Bataan, in the trenches of Corregidor, or on yonder battlefields, these brave soldiers gave a fresh heroic expression to the ideal that once impelled their forebears to find new homes across the Atlantic when, persecuted in all parts of Western Europe, they fled from tyranny to set up a nation dedicated to the principle that all men are created equal, that governments exist with the consent and for the good of the governed and are ruled by laws and not by men.

By the deeds of these honored dead who but yesterday crossed the Pacific, the Eastern World and the Philippine soil are today the richer with their blood and sacrifice.

They came to sanctify America's sacred mission to make the world safe for democracy. And as their bones return to their homeland, they carry with them the gratitude of a liberated people in whose flesh and blood, in whose hearts and souls, and in whose national life, the undying devotion to freedom and democracy will ever be the dominant spirit.

Never in the history of mankind has one people given so much of its own in friendship to another as these gallant men gave to the Filipinos in the name of their fatherland. We may consecrate the spot where they fell. We have done so, as among the most inspiring spectacles that embellish the panorama of this many-times embattled land today are the beautiful solemn shrines, on the choice slopes and plains of these scattered islands erected to the memory of American soldiers who died that this country may be free. We may hold each inch of the battlefield where they fought a hallowed ground, but we cannot make them any more sacred or more hallowed by mere acts of reverence or prayer which we do today. The truest tribute we can offer them is ever to emulate the example of their deeds and to live each hour of the day to attain the object of their unselfish sacrifice.

These men will not rest until we achieve the ideal for which they died. The pattern of that ideal is not written in mere abstractions. It inspired Abraham Lincoln to preserve the Union through the terrible ordeal of a civil war. Woodrow Wilson brought that ideal across the seas when he led America in a crusade to keep the world safe for democracy. It was further projected by Franklin D. Roosevelt when, on converting America into an arsenal of democracy, he effectively asserted American leadership among freedom-loving nations. That ideal was realized when in Africa and in Europe, Eisenhower led his forces to victory; when MacArthur, wading through the marshes of Leyte, landed his victorious Army of Liberation to redeem America's pledge to give the Philippines freedom and independence. It is now embodied in the charter of fifty-eight nations at Lake Success and is embedded in the conscience of all mankind. That ideal is universal peace and security —peace in our hearts, peace in our minds, peace in our homes, peace in our country, and peace in the world, and security for all races.

In the presence of these heroic dead, let us pledge to prosecute the mission they have died to fulfill, to honor and love America, to fight her cause of justice and equality, of individual liberty, security and freedom here and everywhere. The Filipinos on their part, I wish to assure my American friends, will always be ready to respond at America's bidding to the last man.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Address of His Excellency, Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, at the ceremony for the Repatriation of America's World War II dead, held at Manila, May 15, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(5), 1587-1588.

Message of President Quirino to the first military trainees at Floridablanca

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the first military trainees**

[Delivered in Floridablanca, June 16, 1948]

It was my wish to come to congratulate you personally upon the completion of your military training course. But, unfortunately, the work of legislation which is still to be completed demands my presence in Manila. The few days allotted to me to act on many important bills awaiting executive action compels me to forego the pleasure of being with you today.

You constitute the most heterogeneous group of our youth representing as you do all regions and every station of life of our population. What brought you together to this training camp and what has enabled you to endure the many handicaps and inconveniences of an ill-prepared training ground, exposing yourselves to many risks despite which you have maintained an exemplary high morale and patriotic spirit, our people will yet have to learn. What brought you here is the urge to respond to the call of national duty, the ideal that prompted the enactment of the first act of the Commonwealth upon its establishment thirteen years ago. It is the heritage handed down from generation to generation by our ancestors in our centuries of struggle for liberty and freedom. It is what every man fights for: his inalienable right to live his own national life. It is for the protection and preservation of our hard-won sovereignty for which we have sacrificed so much lives and property both in peace and in war. My friends, you have shown a high sense of responsibility to yourselves, to your country and to posterity.

When on July 4, 1946, we established the Republic of the Philippines, we envisioned a state of enduring peace and prosperity. In accordance with our Constitution, we did not contemplate, nor do we contemplate now or in the future, to prepare our country for military aggression. We outlawed war as a means of settling our differences with other nations. Peace and not military preparedness is, therefore, the foundation of our Republic. Our ambition is to live a free and independent existence, concentrating our highest endeavors on the development of our unlimited natural resources which God has given us as a coveted heritage in order that we may be able to secure for ourselves and our posterity a prosperous and peaceful life without molestation from within or from without. But history has taught us and the untold sufferings of our people under the most cruel of national emergencies have made us realize that we must ever guard our liberty and freedom against unexpected attack or aggression. We cannot afford to expose our hard-fought sovereignty without effective vigilance.

But vigilance does not necessarily mean resort to arms. Experience has taught us that there is something more than weapons in man's hands with which to defend or conquer rights. For what are weapons in the hands of a people that are divided, demoralized and undisciplined and lacking in stamina, self-confidence and the deepest of human emotion—love of country? These are the qualities of character that enabled us to keep high our spirit and turn defeat to victory during the darkest moments in the history of our nation. These are, I hope, the same qualities that you have cultivated in your few months of association with one another and which, together with your technical training, have prepared you to fulfill your highest national unity—the preservation of your country and people, of our liberty and freedom.

We will not go to war; we do not prepare for war. Man's deathless dream to end war is still the ambition of mankind. We still hope to establish the real parliament of men designed to promote peace, prosperity and goodwill everywhere. Unfortunately, divergent and often clashing interests, conflicting and seemingly irreconcilable ideologies, and greedy power politics, are yet taking turns to wreck world union and understanding and destroy the effectiveness of this world ideal.

Whether we like it or not, we are inseparably linked with and inevitably affected by world events that may drag us into another world conflagration more costly and more appalling than the last cataclysm. In this eventuality, we may

be the victims of aggression once again or we may have to assist as before in the defense of world democracy. In any case, we must do our bit to prepare and thus preserve our ideals and our own little world.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1948). Message of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, to the first military trainees at Floridablanca, June, 16, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 44(6)*, 1864-1865.

Address of President Quirino on Independence Day, July 4, 1948

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the Independence of the Philippines**

[Delivered at Luneta on July 4, 1948]

MY
GUESTS AND FRIENDS:

COUNTRYMEN,

DISTINGUISHED

Two nations celebrate today their anniversary of freedom. With the United States of America, this celebration is one of the many she has observed annually in her long and successful life as a republic. With our Republic, it is only the second in its young but promising life. To the Philippines, Fourth of July signifies both freedom to the Filipinos and gratitude to America. To America, aside from being also the historic clay of her freedom, it is now properly a continuous source of justifiable pride for the liberty she made possible for us to enjoy. To both countries it should likewise signify from now on the periodic reaffirmation of faith, friendship, and confidence in one another, based on their solemn covenants and mutual commitments.

To be sure, the Filipino people celebrate this memorable day with perhaps greater rejoicing. I shall tell you why. The recentness of our birth as a republic makes our part in this observance like that of proud parents watching fondly their child grow up. You—I—every Filipino, dead or alive, are the proud parents. Dig deep into the past or scour the present and you will find that our libertarian achievements have no parallel in the history of the world. Every man, woman and child in this vast congregation, specially those who suffered in the recent war, know how we won our independence. Our emergence as a nation has been a most painful process. We can truthfully say that this Republic is the child of storm and stress—of fire and famine. Strange as it may seem, although we are only two years old today, we have shown clear signs of amazing strength and vitality, both physical and spiritual, which surely will endure the hardest test.

To us of the living present, it is of moment to know if we who are responsible for the realization of our dream of freedom and are privileged to enjoy it have accomplished what has been expected of us within the brief span of our independent existence. The question is not so much how we have loyally kept our boon of liberty as how we have used it and insured its further enjoyment by the succeeding generations. That is what counts.

Liberty is a mere abstraction. It is devoid of substance as well as of meaning if the people who possess it do not in reality enjoy its blessings. Many countries became free before us. Several others became free after us. However, in the main, they are yet to enjoy the blessings of freedom and independence in the way we now enjoy ours. We are fortunate that while many nations still face revolutions and civil wars, purges and military coups, today we can breathe in common with our fellow countrymen the air of liberty in an era of peace and good feeling.

Heretofore, we have been enjoying the four freedoms made classic by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. We have recently acquired two other freedoms as essential as the first four. They are the freedom from hate and the freedom to work. A rediscovery of the greatest qualities of our race made this acquisition possible. Our character as a people was duly and fully tested of late in the case of dissident elements. In bringing them to reason in the impetuous moments of a national crisis, the national character outweighed ballots and bullets. It is this humane spirit which dominates all nations of Christian faith, serving as the great reservoir—of intellect, of highmindedness and of sincere goodwill—which, wisely utilized in the most patriotic sense of statesmanship, can surely make of our country a unified and solid nation and an exemplary unit in the world organization for peace.

In this new epoch, political independence does not mean merely non-dependence upon others. It means co-existence under the most favorable circumstances, among which is the right to live a free, peaceful and prosperous life. By this concept we now co-exist side by side with the most powerful and prosperous countries in the world. Nations and

peoples today are no longer judged merely by the power that they can wield; neither are they judged only by the area of their territory, the size of their population, the billions of dollars they have in their coffers, nor by the might of their standing armies, for none of these can stand alone against the World Federation of States to come. Peoples and nations are now largely judged, and rightly, by their positive contribution to the peace and happiness of the world. Judged by this criterion, we can assert that in the Philippines we are certainly making that contribution. We can justly say that as a people we are an active and positive factor in the promotion of world peace. This common achievement of which all of us—from the highest executive, legislative, or judicial official to the lowest employee, the intellectual, the businessman, the rich and the poor alike—can be proud, we won in the teeth of seemingly insuperable obstacles.

When this country was ushered into the family of nations at this very minute and hour two years ago, there were serious forebodings and misgivings, fears not entirely unfounded, that this country could survive. There were warnings that the obstacles blocking our way were insurmountable, that a crisis would occur sooner or later to interrupt our chartered course as an independent nation.

Apprehensive but not fearful, we faced these doubts with faith in ourselves and the future.

As always in the Filipino character again proved dauntless. So today, the prophets of fear and disaster of yesterday may witness for themselves how mistaken they were in their underestimation of our stamina and fortitude—of the ability of every citizen of this country to shoulder whatever burden and discharge whatever responsibility may be placed upon him.

We have moved firmly and steadily onward in strengthening our Republic. In every endeavor of our national life, our creative genius, dint of hard work and love of peace and progress have been our constant guide. Our finances, our agricultural and industrial enterprises, our trade and commerce, our international relationship, have accordingly been bolstered up in all directions. And we are growing every day in national stature and winning the respect and even the love of other nations due mainly to our innate sense of responsibility to the nation and to the world and our respect for our international commitments and obligations.

The long strides we have taken in our economic rehabilitation are far beyond our expectations when we assumed sovereignty. Independent of proffered outside assistance, we have proceeded on our own steam. By our own efforts the volume of our production has almost reached the pre-war level; our foreign trade has exceeded the two billion mark; our government revenues have markedly increased and have even exceeded our government expenditures. Although upon the establishment of the new Republic there was fear that we may not be able to balance our budget within five years, we have reached that goal in two years. This is an achievement short of miraculous. Our living costs have been greatly reduced while our living standards continue to improve. The creation of the Central Bank is expected to enhance our economic sovereignty and to encourage the healthy and sturdy growth of our financial institutions in a manner that will effectively protect our national economy, while cautiously guarding against inflation, and insuring at the same time our monetary and currency stability.

The system of effective control we have established over exports and imports seeks to facilitate our economic recovery and balance our payments abroad as well as to regulate our foreign trade in furtherance of our economic rehabilitation. Our industrialization program is proceeding abreast with the impending harnessing of our hydraulic powers in strategic places; our mining industry will receive the greatest impetus; our gold, our coal, our copper, our chromium and other mines will not only be reopened but will be afforded full development.

Our program of social amelioration henceforth will proceed with the greatest speed on a handsome appropriation earmarked for the purpose. We have sought to improve the life of the less fortunate in our national complement: the laborers, small employees, permanent and temporary, the enlisted men in the Army, the school teachers. All these have been granted not only increased salaries but also vacation and sick leaves with full pay. The great mass of our public servants who have been denied payment of their back salaries have now been given the right to enjoy what had been previously withheld from them due to lack of immediately available funds. The construction of homes for our middle class will be encouraged by the Government's guaranty of not more than ten thousand pesos of loan for the construction of each home. The opening of public lands for settlement and production and the acquisition of

private lands for distribution to tenants are definite parts of our program of government. Social security measures of even broader scope are in the offing.

The transition which marks off the period of planning from the actual execution of our huge program of development is fast narrowing. Presently we are to set in motion a greater machinery of production. We will, of course, continue to plan but, meanwhile, we shall also try to break the ground for expanding productivity and development. Carried forward by the spirit of goodwill that has at last united us, we can with greater confidence move towards newer goals and newer achievements. God illumine our way; God give us strength; God continue instilling in our minds faith in Him and in our capacity to make of this nation forever strong and enduring!

On this very spot, two years ago, the highest representative of the United States Government, on proclaiming our independence, asked if the Republic of the Philippines then just born would survive. Our dear friend for whom our prayers shall never end, the first President of our Republic, Manuel Roxas, promptly answered. "It will live and endure the shock of time." In his memory and with the greatest resolve I can muster, I wish today to repeat to the world: *This Republic lives and shall endure the shock of all times!*

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Independence Day address of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, delivered at the Luneta on July 4, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(7), 2319-2322.

Speech of President Quirino upon the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Peace and Amity [Spanish]

**Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Upon the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Peace and Amity between the Republic
of the Philippines and the Government of Spain**

[Delivered at the Malacañan Palace, July 25, 1948]

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

Me siento sumamente feliz en esta ocasion en que se rubrica la amistad de Filipinas y España en un documento firmado por la mano de los hombres, pero en el que resplandecen los elevados designios de la Providencia. Este acto de ratification no es mas que un formulismo diplomatico para afianzar la amistad que desde tiempo immemorial ha existido entre los dos paises. Ni los vaivenes del tiempo ni las vicisitudes de la historia han menguado las fuertes relaciones del espiritu, que han aimcado sus raices en la conciencia de los dos pueblos, desde que el capitan español piso tierra de nuestros abuelos. Y es que las corrientes de la tradition son vivas e inalterables. Es para mi motivo cle orgullo poder dar, en nombre de este Gobierno sancion oficial al pacto que se acorde el año pasado, muy distinto y mas noble que otros pactos analogos, porque en el no hubo menester de sangre. Yo lo llamaria pacto de almas, porque esta condicionado, mas que en lo escrito en el papel, en los impulsos hidalgos del corazon.

Señor Ministro: decid a vuestro Gobierno que los filipinos reconocen la obra bienhechora de España, cuyas costumbres, religion y cultura han dejado huellas indelebles en la estructura de nuestra nacionalidad. Tal es la razon y origen de este pacto. Plegue a Dios que los dos pueblos se encuentren siempre en la ruta que les trazo el Destino, consolidando mas y mas sus vinculos espirituales y materials, y que, al llevar a efecto lo que dice el papel, laboren, mas que en beneficio de sus prepies nitereses, en interes del bienestar y de la paz de todos los pueblos!

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). The President's speech. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(7), 2322-2323.

Transcription of Extemporaneous Address of President Quirino at the Youth Rally

**Transcription of Extemporaneous Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Youth Rally, under the auspices of the Manila Junior Chamber of Commerce**

[Delivered at the Rizal Stadium, August 14, 1948]

*Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:*

I wish to thank the Jaycees for having given me the opportunity to address the youth of the land today. I have been a very close observer of the activities of this body and I believe I can safely assert of its achievements: It is a youthful organization with adult accomplishments.

This meeting, which I did not expect to be as huge a demonstration as it turned out to be, will be one of the great flames which will spur me to action in the discharge of my official duties. In my whole public life, I have never experienced such an inspiring spectacle as this one. There is a happy combination of youth, of beauty, of music, of art, and if I may say so, also of love [*applause*], much of enthusiasm and a great deal of potential strength.

After enduring the vicissitudes of life for many years, I feel that it is a blessing to live today—but to be young is heaven! [*applause*]. It is heaven to me. I am really transported to higher levels. The enthusiasm I have seen in the face of the youth of the land today is unlike that in similar demonstrations of previous years wherein political interest and power pervaded. Such enthusiasm makes me really very, very happy at this moment. Even those of St. Scholastica [*applause*], where my Wife had studied and my only daughter is still studying, seemed thrilled by the music of the Constabulary who this afternoon are not trigger happy but flute and drum happy.

My friends, I did not come here for the purpose of proselyting. I came so to speak, to blow the coal of useful flame, as Emerson would say. I came to commune with you at an hour when it is necessary that we understand each other. Many a time in the past, I also occupied seats on the platform, but more times I occupied the seats on the ground floor and heard my elders address me on topics of importance to our nation's history. Many a time appeared national leaders in universities and colleges, converting those institutions as sounding boards for economic, political or partisan theories and issues. Today, I have not come for anything of that sort. I came to talk to you shoulder to shoulder on matters affecting mutually both young as well as old. It is not true that only the old can teach the young. It is as true to say that the old can learn from the young, because if you review the history of world movements among the youth, you will realize that it is the youth of every land that many times opened the eyes of their respective countries.

I shall not recite the facts of history at this moment. You know that the liberties that people now enjoy have been won not because of the promptings of the old but often because of the impetuosity or perhaps impatience of the young. The old empire, the old kingdoms, the old oligarchies have crumbled to pieces because the youth of the different lands have seen to it that they be changed in their respective regions. In the Philippines we have our own history. As early as the time of Rizal, we were guided by pure idealism. Rizal and Del Pilar and Lopez Jaena and Jacinto and Ponce and all the others who went to Spain were spurred to action there and conducted intensive propaganda for the Philippines not with personal and sordid but with pure and idealistic motives. Those were the days when idealism actuated the minds of our people, then unfortunately unsuccessful in their attempt to achieve their ideals.

It is our young people that led the unsuccessful revolution against Spain and later against the United States. Quezon and his comrades at that time were young and inspired when they started the campaign for independence under a democratic regime during America's sovereignty. It was the youth again during the Japanese occupation that spurred our country to resist the cruel test of our character. The young guerrillas who went to the mountains and the youth

who stayed in the city, with or without arms wherever they were, faced the Japanese under such daring and cruel circumstances that again showed the mettle of the Filipino race. So during the different stages of history, the youth of the land have opened our eyes and spurred us into action.

Today, I did not come to kindle any flame. I repeat, I only came to blow the coal to useful flame. What is this useful flame? My friends, the history of the Philippines has produced different types of leaders for different epochs. During the early days, our national impulse, as I said before, was idealistic. Then it took the form of force. Then it became a campaign for liberty and freedom under a democratic regime during peace time; then again it became a test of our moral caliber. But all these have nurtured the nature of the Filipino race.

Even during the Japanese time, when, we seemed powerless and unable to resist any longer, our country, though devastated, preserved its spiritual courage. Our country rose again because of our moral strength. Today, we live in a new epoch, an epoch of nation-building. What is expected of us at this stage of our history? This concern urged me to come and plead to you for peace and solidarity. Maybe because I still hear the reverberations in my whole being—the roar of cannon in the Revolution of 1896, in the Insurrection of 1898, and of our fight against the Japanese in 1945—and because I found myself in the crossfire during the liberation of 1945—I feel as if war, war, and war and more war is the problem in my lifetime. It must be for this reason that I love peace so much. I have been a child of wars and I am giving all the strength in me to achieve the peace that we need.

Peace, my friends, is the heritage that we are called upon to transmit to our children. We have already gone through sufferings and bloody orgies during so many years of struggling, after so many years of fighting every nation that set foot on our land. It is now up to us to preserve what still remains for us and for our posterity.

My friends, what are the essentials of peace? These, I have been trying to scrutinize day in and day out, at daytime and at night time, and I discovered that the only enemies of peace in this country are inside, perhaps in our inner being, in ourselves. We have been paying too much attention, specially recently, to those who dangle before us the goods of this world. We have been apt to forget the Creator when we love only the created. The inner feeling, the inner life, the ethical and spiritual strength of our being wavers. We lack self-discipline, that spiritual force that guides us in our action.

I do not often boast of my career as a public man, but I can tell you that since the very beginning, there has been one thing that I have remembered, the one thing that I have kept in mind, and that is to so conduct myself in public as well as in private so that I can look straight into any man's eyes and tell him to go to hell. [*Applause.*] That self-discipline, that self-determination, that inner feeling, are things that anybody can achieve. It is the inner individual discipline that we need and there can never be an enduring national peace in our country unless we individually train ourselves in the arts of peace and the ways of peace, and be at peace with our conscience.

My friends, this material world needs today much of that feeling in ourselves. I have on many occasions been faced with the choice of whether my actuation should be guided by what I see and what I am forced to see and to hear or by what I think I should do in my own conscience. I have never been happier than when I followed the latter. After all, service to the people is also service to the inner being.

We are apt to surrender the Eternal Kingdom to the external world in our struggle for national existence. I do feel that there is something in our feeling that must guide our action everywhere and at all times, and that thing is the one I want to impart to you.

As I have said, it is only by training ourselves, by determining to lead a life of peace that we can avoid conflict with others, conflict with our brethren. The greatest and most unhappy mistake in our public life will be to see again, after we have fought so many years for liberty and peace, the loss of our peace simply because there are rivalries, designing and calculating minds who would squander our newly-won freedom for the sake of temporary advantages. This, my friends, is the whole gist of my appeal to you. Let us avoid such an eventuality. Let us avoid brothers killing brothers. Let us avoid our country going into disintegration simply because we are eager to assert again our power in arms or our individual political supremacy in our country. The whole world is watching us. The whole

world is observing us. The whole world is lauding us not only because we knew how to rise from our prostration but because we have learned the ways of peace and are following the examples of peace.

The greatest commentary against this generation is that the future of our country is being shaped by both political and ulterior designs. My friends, the time has come when this generation should realize its own responsibility. Those so-called world saviors, those who seem to monopolize patriotism, those who would champion all championable causes and play the role of exclusive authors of beneficent things, those who alone claim the capacity to transmit to future generations a stronger and happier future—those are to be told that they are not the only ones responsible for the maintenance of the government we have established. You and I are responsible; you are not too young to assume responsibility.

The Jaycees, composed of young men between 21 and 35, are just the type of men who must now help assume responsibility. Although young, they can help greatly. There is nothing better, there is nothing surer and more helpful to an idealistic movement than the expression of approval on the part of the youth including those not yet 21.

But we must not, my friends, devote our time to denunciations and demolitions. We must also erect, construct and establish. We live in an era of nation-building when we have to dig our mines, when we have to reconstruct our devastated communities, when we have to develop our international commerce, to live with other nations, to be friendly with them, to cultivate the world's friendship and goodwill. We have to make this country productive and active as a member in the new world organizations. We must be an asset and not a liability to the United Nations. We must contribute our efforts to the peace of the world by maintaining in the Philippines a unit of peace and solidarity.

My friends, I believe that the youth of the land will know its responsibilities. The young of today work hard; many of them are now earning their daily bread and even supporting their families. They know better than the youth of yesterday who simply sat snugly in the laps of their fathers and mothers waiting for assistance. The youth of today is active and alert, born in an age when everybody has to play a hard part, and the part that you are to play is creative, substantial, and constructive. Your participation should not be secondary; it must be direct and decisive.

Your creative genius, therefore, faces a challenge, and your high sense of responsibility a test. My friends, if this generation is going to deliver this country to the next generation in better shape than now, we must begin to realize and to shoulder the responsibility. It is only when you face responsibility that you realize that you are powerful, that you are safe from those who would poison your mind to convert you into a tool for the fashioning of their designs. You are not going to allow yourselves to be the victims of any such individuals or organizations. Your responsibility, liberty having been won, is to keep that liberty intact for your country, and your people will be proud of you.

So, my appeal today is please help maintain our peace of mind. Tranquility in our country will enable us to concentrate on the activities that are productive and creative and that will make us greater and stronger. I wish you to share the responsibility in our task of construction in this our new epoch. And I challenge you, my friends, to utilize your creative genius and help fashion and nurture our future. The future is yours. It is in your hands. May you live and labor hard and long so that you can enjoy to the fullest the privilege and the glory that constitute your rich heritage. I thank you. *[Long applause.]*

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Transcription of extemporaneous address of President Elpidio Quirino at the Youth Rally, Rizal Stadium, at 5:30 p. m., August 14, 1948, under the auspices of the Manila Junior Chamber of Commerce. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(8), 2643-2647.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speeches of President Quirino and Netherlands Minister A. J. D. Steenstra Toussaint

Speeches delivered by President Elpidio Quirino and Netherlands Minister A. J. D. Steenstra Toussaint at Malacañan Palace, at 5 p. m., August 17, 1948, on the occasion of the presentation of credentials by the Minister of the Netherlands:

THE PRESIDENT’S SPEECH

Mr. Minister:

I welcome you as the permanent envoy of the Netherlands to the Republic of the Philippine. Your country has played a historic role not only in the development of a system of world jurisprudence with Hugo Grotius as your exponent but, as the permanent seat of international tribunals, has championed the promotion of international peace and security. It is therefore significant that the Kingdom of the Netherlands has decided to send Your Excellency as its permanent envoy to my country in these days when international conflicts are still raging in many parts of the world.

Our two countries can be justly proud of the heroic struggles that we have waged against the forces of intolerance and oppression and for the cause of human liberty and freedom. Filipino and Dutch patriots have made this patent by their eloquent and inspiring record during the last war. Even for this reason alone, there should exist a feeling of closer amity and friendship between us. I am particularly happy to hear the announcement that the peoples of Indonesia “are standing on the threshold of political independence” and that the Netherlands Government has assumed the responsibility to promote and to coordinate all constructive elements in order to form in that country a truly representative government. Having gone through the same painful but fruitful experience, the Republic of the Philippines cannot but be a good and friendly neighbor and will certainly rejoice when the Federal Government of Indonesia will at last find its honorable place amongst the family of nations.

I shall ask you to convey, Mr. Minister, to Her Majesty, the Queen of the Netherlands, and Her Excellency, the Regent of the Kingdom, the cordial greetings and the sincere wishes of the Filipino people for their continued health and happiness as well as for the welfare and prosperity of the people of the Netherlands. I am most grateful for the courtesy and honors accorded me when, last year, as Vice-President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs, I visited your beautiful country. I shall never forget the personal concern and attentions with which I was honored by your Prime Minister, Dr. Beel, and the Netherlands Foreign Minister, Baron van Boetzelaer, to whom I would like to ask you to convey my personal greetings.

I have no doubt that your mission in my country will be a success and that your stay with us will serve to reaffirm and strengthen the ties of friendship, understanding and goodwill which for centuries have existed between our two countries.

THE MINISTER’S SPEECH

Monsieur le President:

I feel very happy that the Netherlands Government, desirous to strengthen the ties of friendship and good understanding between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, have decided to be represented with Your Excellency’s Government by a permanent Envoy. In deep gratitude, I acknowledge my appointment by the Regent of the Kingdom and Your Excellency’s approval and willingness to receive me here as Her Netherlands Majesty’s representative.

On presenting my credentials, I may be permitted to recall Your Excellency's visit to the Netherlands last year. Prime Minister Dr. Beel and the Netherlands Foreign Minister Baron van Boetzelaer, both referring to your visit, have asked me to convey to you their personal greetings.

During that visit Your Excellency will have observed the strong similarity between our two countries in respect to war damages. Both have suffered greatly and both countries are working with energy and determination to overcome the effects of war.

The economic reconstruction, at present well on its way in both countries, has only been made possible by conditions of law and order internally, and close international cooperation amongst friendly powers abroad. It is very gratifying indeed, to observe the good results for both our countries of friendly consultation through the usual diplomatic channels as well as in the councils of the international organizations in which the representatives of the Philippines play such an important part.

Friendly council and good understanding of each other's needs are not only necessary in the field of economic reconstruction, but as well in the development of a new political order.

In this part of the world, the peoples of Indonesia are standing on the threshold of political independence. The Netherlands Government are responsible to promote and to coordinate all constructive in Indonesia to form a government truly representative of that vast and beautiful country.

The Netherlands Government and the Federal Government of Indonesia are convinced that they will find in Your Excellency a good friend and neighbor, a willing mind and deep understanding for the necessities of this political evolution which will give to the 70 million inhabitants of Indonesia their due and honourable place amongst the family of nations.

In submitting my credentials I convey to Your Excellency, under instruction of the Regent of the Kingdom, the friendship of the Netherlands for the Philippine Republic and the heartfelt wishes for the prosperity of the Republic and the well-being of Your Excellency personally.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Speeches delivered by President Elpidio Quirino and Netherlands Minister A. J. D. Steenstra Toussaint at Malacañan Palace, at 5 p. m., August 17, 1948, on the occasion of the presentation of credentials by the Minister of the Netherlands. (1948). *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(8), 2648-2650.

Message of President Quirino at the 70th Quezon Birthday Anniversary, August 22, 1948 Address of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, at the 70th Quezon Birthday Anniversary celebration at Quezon City, at 11:30 a. m., August 22, 1948:

We are met today to remember the life and deeds of President Quezon. His name is rightly beloved in the memory of his people. He was not only the foremost champion of their liberties; he was essentially architect and builder of the country's free institutions and modern improvements. Even when far away in exile in a foreign land during his last days his weak voice and unseen hands wrought a miracle in building the morale and strengthening the character of his people. In the perspective of our nation's history, his figure increasingly towers, and, in the ranks of the world's statesmen who have advanced human welfare and founded nations, his place is secure.

It is a natural temptation on this occasion to speculate on what Manuel Quezon, in the light of his guiding principles, would think and do under our present conditions. Our other cherished heroes may evoke the same temptation. Each of them was the peculiar product of his period, as were the problems each faced and the mission each set out to accomplish. It is therefore hardly to be expected that they would react and respond in identical manner to the needs of the present times.

This much we know of the most outstanding among them in relation to their epoch. Rizal died that his people might live. It was an imperative of his time which left him no other dignified and fruitful alternative. Bonifacio took to the battlefield under a related compulsion that gave him a lasting heroic stature in the annals of our nation. Quezon gave his life no less, but as a dynamic and organized force. He gave of its every energy not only to free but also to build a new nation. He sought to live for his people, and for two generations, in the face of every obstacle, consecrated his every effort to win and build for them a fit haven of liberty.

It is an eloquent commentary on Quezon's creative leadership that in every crisis of his people calling forth every instinct of national self-preservation, he raised the standard around which they rallied, closed ranks, and presented a solidarity and a common will that swept the most formidable obstruction and nullified the most vicious sniping at home or abroad.

Where others would subvert and destroy, he welded and builded to preserve every gain, every advance, secured for the nation's welfare. No false pride of self prevented him from welcoming any honest proffer of cooperation and assistance from the bitterest political rival. Where he saw that his initiative was needed to secure national unity, he as quickly dropped selfish barriers to make common cause. I was a witness of some of those touching moments when at the height of political cataclysms he would as promptly and spontaneously manifest saintly self-abnegation as he would make an uproarious lion's demand in the name of national solidarity. Far above his human frailties and emotions he had the sublime passion for his country's welfare and future.

In war as in peace he was the unfailing flame. The struggle that he led under a less creative inspiration, might conceivably have deteriorated into one monotonous and sterile gesture of protest or defiance. Instead, as he guided our people through that fateful period, I've learned to take full advantage of our opportunities to habituate ourselves to the instruments and processes of free institutions such as only a working democracy can provide. Our Commonwealth inevitably and inescapably bridged our passage to our Republic, just as our years of peaceful fight for our political emancipation earned for us the right to the preparatory transition leading to the climax of and victory in our struggle. The result is our own Republic today, founded solidly on our people's united will and a heroic heritage of freedom.

But it took a constructive genius of the measure of Quezon to build up our people to full understanding of the responsibilities of freedom, to full appreciation of its opportunities and benefits. The fruits of his labors as the tireless champion of Filipino freedom could have been nullified by a people ill prepared to enjoy them. But he prepared his people well and he had cause to be proud.

Quezon's leadership comprehended not only political but economic and social blessings. I remember that as governor of his native province now named after him, he made the inhabitants plant coconuts and thus gave them

the basis of their material prosperity to this day. This drive for economic development took on a country-wide scope as our people gave him the range and command of the national scene.

The spacious proportions of Quezon's creative statesmanship reach out to us in the responsibility to strengthen our Republic on the foundation of justice and fair opportunity to every man, woman and child. He gave us our definition of social justice, stressing the primacy of human rights over property rights, of the common welfare over the claims of a privileged few. He gave us the design of its scope, the base on which to raise the structure that would be worthy of its original architect. He charged us with the prosecution of the unfinished project which is in effect a continuation of our age-long fight for freedom and dignity.

Whereas, before, our struggle was against alien sovereignty and its cramping impositions, today our struggle is against our difficulties among and within ourselves, against forces of selfishness and disruption which we must conquer if we are to have the solidarity essential to the building of a Republic that will secure justice to every Filipino and contribute to the peace and welfare of the world.

This new struggle is no less urgent. The conquest of self, of the ego that would project and identify itself as the voice and the will of the people, calls for moral resources of a generous measure to achieve a triumph truly for the common good. This conquest must be secured to liberate the individual citizen who would build, who would help erect a social structure worthy of universal loyalty and affection.

Quezon knew the kind of material needed for such a structure. His life was one plea and effort for husbanding and mobilizing the moral resources exemplified by the sturdy representative characters of our race. He saw that our country needed men, real men, whole men—men who would have faith, courage, humility—integrated men dominated by the passion to serve. On the eve of the last world conflict, he gave his country a vivid picture of this crucial need. I can say that in the test which followed, we vindicated Quezon's great faith. Our people survived. Quezon, in effect, builded men's souls, his countrymen's souls, and thus made the Philippines an animate body politic with vision, dignity and character, strong, firm and enduring as the "molave." The memory of his achievement in this direction will continue to guide and inspire this generation and our posterity. It will continue to raise men who deserve to live, to be free, to be respected.

It is apparent, as has strangely been revealed to us in an analytical retrospect into our history, that we have shown moral strength as a nation during adversity but we have betrayed our frailties during prosperity. Facing an outsider in our struggle for national self-assertion or for survival, we manifest solidarity and forget or become more tolerant to our internal enemies and ill-wishers. This phenomenon is easier to realize than to understand, and yet it is but a normal human reaction. What we should guard against is the development of what peace and prosperity engenders, when left to ourselves, and nothing taxes our minds or compels us into a position of self-defense. I refer to the danger of self-complacency that permits the seeds of envy, hate and ambition to thrive in an atmosphere of petty rivalry and dissension. Nothing can be more potentially destructive of all that we have strived and labored so mightily to create during our long years of struggle in order to preserve our nation!

We belong to an epoch in which we do not live by and to ourselves. No individual, no nation does. At no time in our history is the truth more crucial that we cooperate and live together or be destroyed separately. As a young Republic, we still have a special advantage: we have legions of friends abroad and practically no enemies. We cannot afford to neglect this advantage in our conduct at home, in the improper use of opportunities offered by a relative measure of prosperity and peace. We must unite, promote goodwill, help to lift and build, and not merely watch and carp to gain attention or temporary and unholy advantage. In this our age of reconstruction we should not only demolish, we should also establish.

No leader of his day and people has done more than President Quezon to build the enormous prestige abroad which our country enjoys today. He gave name, honor and dignity to his people and race, placing the Commonwealth of the Philippines side by side with different sovereign nations long before we became independent. We, to whom he handed this beautiful heritage, can do no better than to so live among ourselves and with other peoples to sustain what a lifetime of endeavor that great leader has created to our country's definite credit and advantage.

We stand today on the site of what is to develop as the capital city of the Philippines. As we came from our respective homes to participate in this time-honored celebration on this spot, we went through streets, avenues and parks which he laid and constructed in life; we contemplated panoramas which were going to be the expansion of his remarkable vision. This new city was Quezon's dream and conception. It was most natural to him as a builder to conceive a city that would embody the facilities and appointments of a modern metropolis responsive to the needs of free, civilized, democratic, healthy modern living. He wanted to demonstrate to his people that they are capable of and deserve such a life.

This city and other cities and communities to follow under the same pattern will be appropriate monuments not so much to Quezon the leader, builder, and father of his country, as to the dream and devotion that gave him reason for being—the dream that the humblest of his countrymen is worthy of the best that a just and democratic order can give, and the devotion that consumed all of his mortal frame and spirit to give it the broadest possible latitude of fulfillment.

Let this be our pledge as we celebrate the 70th birthday of Manuel Quezon: We shall build for our people the city of his dream that we may always cherish the imperishable ideals of freedom and justice and social amelioration upon which he rallied the nation to lay the foundations of our Republic.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino at his induction as Honorary Member of the Overseas Press Club Extemporaneous Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At his induction as honorary member of the Overseas Press Club

[Delivered on September 8, 1948]

NO IDEOLOGICAL ISSUE IN THE PHILIPPINES

On September 8, 1948, His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, was inducted as honorary member of the Overseas Press Club. To express his appreciation for the honor conferred upon him, the President delivered the following extemporaneous speech.

Mr. BOGUSLAV, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND FRIENDS:

I REMEMBER having visited you twice in the past, for the first time in Pasay, the second time on Dasmariñas, and this is the third time.

While my first meeting with you was not only pleasant but very cordial and enthusiastic, I have a very sad recollection of my second visit to you at your affair at Dasmariñas because it was there where your members fleeced me of P800. And I think that, perhaps, it would have been much better if your M. C. had continued speaking in order to leave less time for another round table meeting this evening to which I expect you will invite me again. This time I promise you that I shall not be a sucker. When I was at dinner with the Press Club in San Francisco last year, there was a gentleman sitting about two yards from me who asked me if I didn't remember having played at a round table at the Press Club in Manila where I was divested of "a couple of hundred pesos." I said, "Yes."

Perhaps it was with the idea of making the people around us know that I was a very poor poker-player that the gentleman asked me the question. But I retorted that I had wanted to "deposit" part of my winning in a previous game in which the American ambassador had lost P1,500, which I had won, that I was quite willing to give away P800 to his fellow members.

Well, I hope I can repeat that feat today, and that I shall make good my promise not to be a sucker this time. I do appreciate, Mr. Boguslav, the great honor conferred upon me this evening, not so much for its intrinsic value, as it falls short of the amount that I left with you last year, but for its sentimental value which may enable me to forget the sad experience I had with your club members last year. This honor also has great intrinsic value and will be a source of encouragement to me.

I feel highly flattered by the motive which prompted the club to confer this honor on me. I want to tell you that it will be my ambition to justify, if I have not yet justified, your pronouncement that I have rendered service to my country. You asked me whether I would like to say something tonight or not. I chose to say something because I think I have something to say to you members of the Overseas Press Club.

I am glad that I have been given this opportunity because we seldom get together to exchange views on matters Philippines as well as on matters overseas. This is a splendid occasion. I appreciate the opportunity you have given me because I do not think there are many things that we have to agree upon regarding conditions obtaining in the Philippines today. My only regret is that we have so many ladies here present and perhaps we cannot speak so freely.

When I was once challenged to a bridge game, I was asked whether I preferred to play bridge or poker. I answered: "With the ladies I prefer to play bridge; with men I prefer to play poker."

“What is the reason for your preference for bridge?” some one may ask.

“I prefer bridge because I would have more time to be with the ladies. Bridge is so slow a game that it gives me ample opportunity to be with ladies and feel not so forlorn as I have been for the last two years.

I have been frequently asked about local conditions since my assumption of office. I have been invariably asked to explain what has transpired in the country during the first few months of my incumbency. I have been very cautious, as I wish to guard against any misstatement of the true situation in the Philippines. I have been afraid that I might overestimate what was accomplished by the Government during the time of our good and mutual friend, the late President Manuel Roxas.

Perhaps I have been too modest to my friends who have seen me on many occasions and asked what we have accomplished in the last few months. I think the time has come, however, for you and me to talk in unequivocal terms about what has really transpired. Evidently there has been talk, loud talk, big talk, about things happening in the Philippines which seem to have beclouded the real condition of peace in the country in the eyes of the world. Dispatches arriving now and then from abroad, especially from the United States, have conveyed the idea that this is a country where commotion and confusion rule. Some of them even express fear of disintegration in our country.

Of course, as a Filipino and as head of this nation, I have cause to suspect that many of those dispatches have been nothing but reflections of slants on news by local newspapers. Here in the Philippines they may not mean much but outside they are given so much importance that they may affect our national or even international standing.

There are reports, for example, that there has been a growing threat to the stability of this government when as a matter of fact this government—I do not have to state this, you go out to the provinces and you will find out for yourselves—this government is stable and strong. I am not very proud of some of the happenings in some places, but in general I am proud of the situation in the country. I would invite you gentlemen who have come from over the seas, and even those who are from Manila, to make a trip, go beyond the mountains, cross our seas, to far-flung communities and learn from the people what are the thoughts that occupy their minds. It is only in certain isolated places where there is commotion, and it is only because some people, in order to gain their selfish ends, would sacrifice the very name, the dignity, and the prestige of the Republic of the Philippines.

We are not confronted by an ideological issue in the Philippines. If you gentlemen go out in the country and ask the people about their needs, you will never find them talking about communism or democracy. They talk of practical problems. And it is this fact that has guided me in my actuations since my assumption of office. I have never taken my feet off the ground. I tackle problems as I find them.

Unfortunately, it was perhaps one of my greatest disadvantages that when I assumed office we were on the highest crest of a wave of agitation, suspicion, hatred, and disintegration. I thought that after the wave had gone down, peace would be restored, but instead the ship of state was caught in the backwash, and we are now in the whirlpool of that backwash. But the boat has not been shattered. The government has not been destroyed. We have survived the crisis. Our people are going about their duties normally and cheerfully.

I would invite those who have not yet seen the rest of the post-war world to go and visit other countries and compare our situation in the Philippines with theirs. I am quite sure that when you return you will say almost unanimously: “The Philippines is ahead of them all in liberty and freedom, in prosperity, in cheerfulness, in contentment.”

But we are not satisfied with the present situation. I am not satisfied and I propose to improve it, but, Ladies and Gentlemen, the laws, the executive orders, the programs and policies that we have initiated here are not self-executing. More often than not, they have to be carried out and followed through for a period of years. What Quezon could not do, what Osmeña could not do, what Roxas could not do, what any other head of state could not do in the last two or three decades Quirino should not be expected to do in five months of incumbency in the face of all those difficulties that I have mentioned. (*Applause*)

I want to assure you that I am concentrating all my attention to the solution of these problems. The reason why I have not said a word about them before is that I have been very busy with my shovel, breaking the ground instead of talking aloud as others would have done or are doing now.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I believe that the time has come for us to realize that the Philippine Republic is a new experiment in democracy in the Orient, or for that matter, in the world. If you are going to let us down, if the correspondents of newspapers all over the world who converge in the City of Manila do not help us picture the real situation here, if we lose prestige and disintegrate, the failure of this experiment in democracy will be a reflection not only of our incapacity but also of the lack of support, moral and otherwise, from other democracies which are duty bound to help us, inasmuch as the success of this experiment will redound to the success of democracy throughout the world.

I mean by this that with your endorsement tonight, with this symbolical heart, I shall be encouraged to go on and march forward. People will heckle me. People will attack me. People will ridicule me. But still I remember that the sky is not always bright. On this occasion I recall what I wrote when still a youngster trying to catch up with the budding poets in my class:

I cannot see but what the world may seem,

I do not care if there is sun or there is light,

I do not care for the pangs of years,

Or tell of hours I spend in tears,

Because I know:

I know God sends the light and the warmth that I may need

I know that God blesses the joys and tears that make my creed.

And my creed is to serve and serve, and not to talk. Thank you very much. *(Long applause)*

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1949). *The new Philippine ideology*. Manila : Bureau of Printing.

Address of President Quirino on Arbor Day

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On Arbor Day**

[Delivered over a national radio hook-up from Malacañan Palace, September 10, 1948]

The second Saturday of September each year has been proclaimed Arbor Day. We pause in our daily tasks to ponder the significance of trees to our life; we make an inventory of the manifold benefits we owe these leafy benefactors of the human race, and rediscover our duties and obligations towards them. It is most fitting that we reflect on the tragedy that would befall us were we to be suddenly deprived of trees and their products; that we resolve to do all we can to conserve, protect, and multiply them in order that we may enjoy a more abundant life.

We shall celebrate the day tomorrow by planting trees and holding appropriate programs that will focus national attention on our trees and forests. For that matter, we should make every day an Arbor Day. Tomorrow and thereafter, whenever and wherever there is opportunity, we should raise trees not only for food, for shade, for shelter, but also for ornament, for park purposes and for our protection. We should plant trees on our barren areas, our denuded hills, our eroded mountains so as to make these uneconomic portions of our patrimony blossom again.

The uses of trees are as numerous as the names that we have given them. We grow them as forest trees, shade trees, ornamental trees, medicinal trees, fruit trees. I would lay emphasis on fruit trees and forest trees, from which the world derives the most important raw materials—food and wood.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said: “A people without children would face a hopeless future; a country without trees is almost as hopeless * * *.” In the past we were prone to pay very little attention and care to our trees; we had them in such abundance. Fortunately, we have come to realize that we cannot go on wasting and despoiling them at will. Our forests constitute a rich heritage which we have no right to destroy or squander. Rather, we should increase their quantity and quality by importing and growing suitable varieties available from everywhere. The effects of wanton forest destruction are already being felt in such deforested places as Cebu, Bohol, Siquijor and the Ilocos provinces. There the struggle for existence is daily becoming more acute because of the decline in agriculture due to poor or exhausted soil.

Those of us who have traveled in other countries and have seen the disastrous effects of forest destruction cannot but shudder with apprehension as we contemplate the hardships that will be visited on our people if the indiscriminate cutting of trees now going on is permitted to continue. We have seen places where, for lack of firewood, people are using grasses, roots and dried animal “dung” to cook their food. Those places present a decadent or declining agriculture, an impoverished nation, a very keen struggle for existence among the people. In order to rebuild what men so wantonly destroyed enormous sums of money are now being spent in many countries for reforestation work and for construction of expensive terraces, dikes, dams and levees. In our own land, hundreds of lives and millions of pesos worth of property are lost every year because of floods. In addition, towns and barrios which were formerly productive, have been washed away or eventually abandoned. Despite our great forest wealth, there are many barren mountains and treeless slopes which are sad to contemplate. Because of the lack of forests at their headwaters, streams rise quickly to destructive flood heights and as quickly dry up in summer when their water is most needed. Dikes, dams and levees cost a good deal to construct in the thickly populated communities. We can reduce these costly forms of protection by the cheaper natural process of planting trees wherever we can—strong trees, useful trees, beautiful trees which can be pleasant to the eye everywhere.

I wish to call upon every provincial, city and municipal official to cooperate with the National Arbor Day Committee in carrying out a comprehensive plan of nation-wide tree-planting. The Committee has chosen to dedicate its program this year to the memories of our war dead and heroes, particularly our beloved and departed Presidents Quezon and Roxas. Nothing can be more fitting to symbolize their lifetime ambition to make this nation

grow and develop for the benefit and enjoyment of posterity. I invite every citizen of this country, especially the youth of the land, to plant at least one tree each tomorrow as a reminder of our national duty to keep and preserve this nation. Let us all pay heed to the poet's prayer and make it the prayer of every young citizen who plants a tree:

God, Let me blossom as a tree
That bears the storms with majesty.
Let my young body, washed by pains,
Be refreshed as trees from rain.
Let me grow sturdy as a fir
That feels the winds with gentle stir
Of all its branches, yet is still
Where its strong roots clasp the hill.
Teach me, O God, to live and grow
As straight as trees in sun and snow;
As with the trees that bear old scars,
Lift my young body to the stars!

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Arbor Day address of President Elpidio Quirino, delivered over a national radio hook-up from Malacañan Palace, September 10, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(9), 3207-3208.

Message of President Quirino on the occasion of the U. S. Air Force Day

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the United States Air Force, on the occasion of the U. S. Air Force Day**

[Delivered on September 18, 1948]

The United States Air Force was made coequal in status with the other services of the U. S. Armed Forces on September 18, 1947 and simultaneously was acclaimed by the whole world as the first line of defense.

This epoch making decision of the United States government in placing the air force on an equal footing with its other armed services gave ample recognition to an undeniably noble service which mightily wrecked democracy's foes and conclusively brought to an end the rule of totalitarianism in the last war. It gave provision for that historic formula, "Rule, America, rule the air", and of the basic peace concept "Peace power is air power", which today rings more true to an uneasy and troubled humanity.

Those who look with misgiving on the uncertainty which the world still faces, know that there is ample ground for a continued urgency. Now the urgency is to produce an air potential which may prevent the friction of the Powers' forces and thus plunge the world into an unabettted catastrophe.

The race now, more than ever, is not one for war, but for Peace, to which the United States Air Force is bound to guarantee. It is the essence of its mission and the spirit of its organization.

With such goal the whole world looks to it for fulfillment and the landmark for world's peace could very well be reposed on September 18, today, when we all join the Officers and Men of the USAF on their historic commemoration.

To the officers and men of the 13th Air Force in particular, to whom we shall have much in common in days ahead, we salute you on this day.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1948). Message of President Elpidio Quirino to the United States Air Force, on the occasion of U. S. Air Force Day on September 18, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(9), 3209.

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino delivered after the oath-taking of the new members of his Cabinet

**Extemporaneous Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
After the oath-taking of the new members of his Cabinet**

[Delivered on September 22, 1948]

At long last, I am happy to have been able to constitute this Cabinet. In making my selection, I have tried my utmost, my very best, to please everybody concerned. I have discovered that this has been a very ambitious attempt. No one will ever be able to succeed completely; I don't expect to be an exception. There will always be a percentage in the whole complement that will not meet the objection of even our best well-wishers. My only consolation, and this I am determined to accomplish, is that I can continue to make use of my prerogatives to minimize the causes of the apparent misgivings.

I appeal to the right thinking citizens of this country to give my new Cabinet a chance. I shall not apologize nor court public sympathy for them. All I wish is to have these men who have sworn to serve the best interests of the country an honest opportunity, full opportunity, Christian opportunity, to do their level best in order to accomplish their mission. I think I have a right to demand co-operation and to request that no campaign of obstruction to their administrative endeavors be started prematurely from the very beginning.

To you, gentlemen, and Mrs. Perez, who have accepted your respective responsibilities, I ask you to concentrate all your efforts, all your energies, devote all your time, put your heart and soul to your work and your duties. We have no time to lose. We have to speed up the work of restoring our country to normalcy. We are not supposed to reconstruct or rehabilitate the country from the ruins of the last devastating war only. We are supposed to build and plan for the development and expansion of all our activities and make of this nation strong and enduring. You may be criticized for your actuations, you may be heckled, you may be embarrassed, you may be harassed, but as long as your acts are motivated by no other than your patriotic endeavor to help build this country, its name, its institutions, its dignity and its honor, do not waver nor hesitate in the discharge of your public duties. Do not be afraid to act if in so acting you follow the dictates of your conscience, the law the constitution, and the supreme interests of the people. A government of wavering, hesitating public officials is not strong.

Of course we constitute the Government, but this government is of the people. We are merely their hired servants. But precisely because we are the instruments of the people's welfare, we are entitled to the co-operation and respect of the people whose interests we have sworn to serve. I want, therefore, this government not only to be strong but to be respected, its laws obeyed, and the general interests of the people served. I ask you to do justice to every man, which is the supreme constitutional mandate.

I repeat what I announced upon my assumption of office: let us all so conduct ourselves in our public actuations and even in our private lives so that the people may have confidence and respect for us. I enjoin you to devote every minute of your time to the welfare, the prosperity, the security, and the happiness of the Filipino people. God be with us all.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Extemporaneous speech of President Elpidio Quirino, delivered after the oath-taking of the new members of his Cabinet on September 22, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(9), 3209-3210.

Radio Speech of President Quirino delivered on the eve of Census Day Radio Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the conduct of Census Day

[Delivered on September 30, 1948]

As you have already been informed, by legislative mandate and executive proclamation, tomorrow will be Census Day. The first census under the new Republic will be taken. We expect this to be comprehensive, complete and accurate.

There are many reasons why we need such a census at this time. Because of the repeated devastations inflicted upon our country during the Pacific war, decimating our population, desolating our fields, destroying our cities and towns, the last census taken in 1939 has naturally become obsolete. And because our records were destroyed during the occupation and a follow-up of our statistics to render them up-to-date has been made practically impossible, it is now necessary that we take a new inventory of our nation. No planned effort on the part of our government, on that of private individuals, or on the part of those engaged in the development of our industries, or the promotion of our financial activities under the general development program of the country, can be successfully realized unless it is premised on an accurate statistical knowledge of our population and the resources at our command. The methodical and systematic rebuilding of our country must be based upon scientific planning and direction and not on a haphazard and fumbling undertaking which is wasteful and painful.

Census taking is an initial preparation for a nation. We are building a new nation and the pattern which we follow must necessarily be in tune or in harmony with the present world progress. Thus, local and foreign elements concerned or interested in this joint venture must be apprised of our true conditions before any intelligent planning can be adopted. This, however, cannot be accomplished without an accurate estimate for our basic plans. Despite our recent vicissitude, our country has progressed tremendously compared with other countries equally devastated in the last world war. We are now in the heat of execution of our vast plans of reconstruction and rehabilitation, as well as of expansion and development. For the purpose of economy in our common efforts, money and energy, we must have in our hands an accurate compendium, all the necessary data, that will permit us to make correct estimates in carrying out our vast programs. I therefore call upon every person in this country to cooperate in every way possible with the personnel in charge of taking our census who will visit each and every one of you at sunrise tomorrow.

They will come to your homes or your places of business to seek the answers to the questions prepared by the government calculated to draw from you the facts and figures which together will give us a new and accurate picture of our young Republic. I myself will cooperate as a mere citizen when tomorrow, I shall receive an enumerator and give forthright answers to the questions contained in his census form. Only by truthful answers given in the spirit of cooperation shall we be able to have a new census that is useful, accurate, and reliable.

Most of us have already been subjected to census questionnaires in the past. So it is no longer necessary to explain that the government has not the least desire or intention to pry unnecessarily into our people's private business or affairs. I am sure that the entirely laudable purpose of census-taking is well-understood among the masses of our people. I am therefore confident that they will extend their utmost cooperation and make possible the taking of a new census which will be a scientific and accurate inventory of everything useful and helpful in our country. I want the census to be taken tomorrow a veritable Bible and treasury of facts and statistics depicting the culture, the wealth, the progress and the life of our people.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1948). Radio speech of President Elpidio Quirino, delivered on the eve of Census Day, September 30, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(9), 3211-3212.

Speeches of President Quirino and Major General Eugene L. Eubank on the American flag that was flying at Clark Field, Pampanga, when the late President Manuel Roxas visited the field, October 1, 1948

**Speeches
of
President Quirino and Major General Eugene L. Eubank
On the American flag that was flying at Clark Field, Pampanga,
when the late President Manuel Roxas visited the field**

[Delivered at the Malacañan Palace, on October 1, 1948]

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH OF RESPONSE

General EUBANK: I thank you for your thoughtfulness in presenting this flag to me. It symbolizes both our grief for our loss and our pride for America. President Roxas went to Clark Field to receive the honors that America bestowed on him on that day, April 15, and to inspect that great evidence of our cooperation in the defense of democracy and our common liberties. It was there where Providence claimed his life. What spurred him in his visit to Clark Field, what he had burning in his heart when he delivered his last speech, and what he felt when he reiterated Filipino loyalty and admiration and gratitude to America, we shall cherish and perpetuate. This symbolic flag will mean all that to us, and we will keep it as a national treasure.

GENERAL EUBANK'S PRESENTATION SPEECH

Mr. PRESIDENT: I hand you the flag of my country. On April 15th this flag flew proudly at Clark Field when we honored your great leader. On the morning of April 16th it hung at half staff as his body was escorted from our base. Throughout the world our flag is a symbol of freedom and democracy. In addition, I ask you to let this flag be a symbol of our admiration and respect for the man who did so much for your country and my country, your first President and our staunch friend, Manuel Roxas.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Address of President Quirino launching the National Food Production Campaign

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the launching of the National Food Production Campaign**

[Broadcast over a national radio hook-up by remote control from Malacañan Palace, October 1, 1948]

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

I wish to preface this appeal to the people of this land to join the food production campaign with a plain statement of a simple fact: there is no food shortage in the Philippines today. We have accumulated enough imported food supplies to supplement our local food stocks and answer our domestic needs. Except rice, no food is being rationed here. Our food supply for our immediate requirements is sufficient.

But we have grave and urgent reasons to prepare for any eventuality of food scarcity. The recent typhoons have destroyed many of the current food crops, reducing our previous estimates of harvest in prospect. Although thousands of hectares of rice land in Central Luzon, specially in Nueva Ecija, which have not been planted during the last two or three years now promise a rice bumper crop, the recent renewal of violence in the area may reduce productivity in certain parts, the results of which we are bound to feel sometime. The present distribution of world food supply, plentiful in the aggregate, is being-restricted because of the confusion in some countries due to domestic tensions or the grave fear of a possible world war; they are not being too free or cannot be free in releasing their surplus stocks; they have their needs to think of or they do not have the means to facilitate shipment to other countries.

We have to make preparations now to insure a future stable food supply in the same manner that a man digs a well before he experiences thirst. We should not wait to become hungry before we dig and plant and produce our nourishment. A hungry individual can not properly and efficiently work.

I therefore call upon every citizen to do his share to produce. Every bit of available land must be cultivated; every backyard planted to corn, camotes, cabbages, pechay and other vegetables. I and the members of my cabinet will start with vegetable patches of all varieties at the Malacañan Park tomorrow. This is the best season of the year most favorable to planting. Time should be spared also to raise chickens, hogs, and other animals. We do not wish for any war but we must be prepared if it should come. We must utilize all the space and all the resources that we have to increase our food supply.

During the occupation we planted a lot and survived. The produce was a great help to our bodies, but our determined spirit did even more to our morale in those difficult times.

I have instructed the Bureau of Plant Industry to help the people secure all the seedlings they need. Every other government agency in a position to assist the people in the way of material, method and machinery is likewise ready to cooperate.

In order to solve our perennial rice problem, I have taken steps to achieve a long range objective of stabilizing our rice supply. While we are waiting for a definite and positive program from the Rice Commission which has been empowered to study the question and submit a concrete program, we must do something now. The present situation

requires that we not only prepare for the remote future; we must do something right now while our long-range program take its time to mature for fulfillment.

We live in a really trying period in our history. It is in our hands to make something of our present opportunity to build in this part of the world a nation of progressive, self-sufficient, self-reliant and contented citizens. This we have to prove today by our capacity to help ourselves and to anticipate future exigencies. Our survival and our future progress depend on how adequately we feed ourselves and how well we are seasoned morally to cope with immediate as well as distant contingencies.

The broad lesson of our food production campaign is that we have the chance to show our appreciation of the value of foresight. We must have foresight or we perish. The measure of success that we achieve in our food production campaign will indicate that we are prepared not only to deal with the present but to make the future and meet its opportunities.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Address of President Elpidio Quirino launching the National Food Production Campaign, over a national radio hook-up by remote control from Malacañan Palace, at 7 p.m., October 1, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(10), 3758-3759.

Address of President Quirino before the Convention of Provincial Governors and City Mayors, October 4, 1948

Transcription of extemporaneous address of President Elpidio Quirino before the Convention of Provincial Governors and City Mayors, in the Malacañan Social Hall, at 10 a.m., October 4, 1948:

I am happy to welcome you this morning in this my first conference with provincial and city executives since I assumed office. I called this conference so that we may coordinate our respective functions in the execution of the programs and administration of government.

We, therefore, have not come together to talk; let others who have the time to do so devote themselves to this pastime and dig deep into the past and unearth the wisdom of centuries or look up to heaven in an attempt to pierce the clouds and the heavens with their intellect. We who belong to the Executive Department cannot afford to employ our time in this wise.

I have diverted from the old practice of having the members of the Cabinet address you as guests. I want them to directly participate in your deliberations as my representatives so that they can freely discuss the views and the manner of coordinating the activities of their respective departments with our local units. In this way you will have an opportunity to be nearer the respective department heads and be able to deal with them more effectively and perhaps more successfully. I want you to discuss with them freely as if you were discussing matters with me for they are in fact the extension of the President's personality.

My friends, there are many pressing matters that prompted me to call this conference. Our first years of existence, the Republic's two years as such, have been primarily devoted to planning, to blueprinting our program of administration. Although we have executed some of the policies we have adopted, there are still many which are pending execution. I shall not attempt to increase the number nor to complicate the program which is before us as administrators of the affairs of our people. We will just multiply our problems and nullify our very action in our eagerness to accomplish all of them. So we will only single out the most outstanding, the most important, the most pressing.

Many and varied are the problems before us, but the most pressing ones in my opinion are the questions of peace and order, of economic development, of solidifying and unifying our country in an effort to make this an integrated, firm, strong and enduring government. In order to accomplish all these objectives which are uppermost in our minds, it is necessary that we all contribute in our respective jurisdictions.

Of course, peace and order is the most important of all. Without peace and order, without tranquility in our mind, without our fields and our homes being protected, without our industries being safe, we shall find it difficult to carry out our program of economic development. And economic development, my friends, is the key to the stability of this nation.

In my effort to maintain peace and order, you all know that I extended amnesty to the dissident elements. I was supported by the party. I was supported by the Congress. I was supported by the Council of State. And I was supported by all factions. Public opinion today is unanimous for eradicating that menace to our enduring existence. We did not fail in the government. We have accomplished everything expected of us. I have extended to the dissidents all benefits under the Constitution. I have given all kinds of relief, specially to the peasants whose cause I have espoused. I have given food, I have given medicine, I have given clothing, I have given money in crop loans. I even gave them lawyers and equipment plus money for the legal needs of dissident elements with cases in court as those for sedition. I have given them liberty. I have given their leader more. He was given complete freedom to collect his salary—his backpay, his secretary's salary, and he even mortgaged his future salary; he received all privileges extendable to members of Congress.

The social amelioration program was adopted after a lengthy discussion with the participation of the leaders of the dissidents. Even the leaders of the opposition were there, especially the right thinking members of the intellectual group, the Democratic Alliance headed by Judge Jesus Barrera. Both Judge Barrera and Taruc were present when

we discussed and adopted the social amelioration program which embraces all the measures necessary to relieve the suffering peasants. We are in the midst of executing this social amelioration program.

But we have been obstructed not only unnecessarily but by those who pretend to champion the cause of the peasants. The officials I have appointed to constitute the action committee to supervise in the field the carrying out of the 6-point social amelioration program, are in constant fear of depredations and raids by dissident elements. We have been able to induce the peasants to come down from the hills in order that they may be able to cultivate again the land they had left idle for the last two or three years. Many have returned to their homes and, I presume, lived as peaceful citizens for a period of 50 days. And yet, simply because of the menace of impending war, some people, perhaps among them dissident elements, saw it timely to defy and wrest the government from us so that they can rule together with others, imposing upon us a foreign loyalty.

Thus, the dissidents have gone back to the hills and defied the government. So what could I do? I cannot change the laws. I cannot promise dissidents firearms when the laws do not allow them to possess arms without license. Our civilian population is not entitled by law to possess firearms without, license and I cannot, without legislation, extend a higher privilege to dissident elements so that they will call themselves the privileged class, demanding from us the disarming of civilian guards and the deployment of the Constabulary and the Army.

So what I did, my friends, is to give instructions to the Constabulary and all the armed forces of the Philippines to check this movement which is retarding not only the execution of our program of social amelioration but also that of our economic development, especially in our granary. We need more rice for it is the staple food of the Filipinos.

Now, my friends, I want to report to you that the question of peace and order has been altered. But it was altered, I think, at last, at long last, for our good, I offered to them my left hand in which I placed the food, the medicine, the clothing, money and charity—everything that can be given them in order to alleviate them in their sufferings. I told them frankly on that very day when I went to visit them in Central Luzon two or three months ago that I would use my right hand—and God forbid that I use it at any time, because in my right hand I have the bullets. I told them frankly and I was sincere in telling them and I meant it. They defied the government. The government must be respected. Our laws must be obeyed. This is the only way by which we can achieve here a government strong and enduring, one that will live for ages. We are following this policy. [*Applause.*]

So, my friends, peace and order is the most important of all the matters that we should have in mind during our conference. We have been proud of having been referred to in international councils and conferences as a peaceful country. We have even been pointed out as a successful experiment in democracy. This being the only democratic, independent country on this side of the globe, we are proud to have enjoyed the fame of being one of the countries in the world that know how to maintain peace and order. We want to live up to that reputation by maintaining the dignity of this government.

The social amelioration program has been spread in the minutes of the Cabinet as well as the Council of State and it is a program by which I think we can obliquely approach our social and economic problems. It is my great hope that if we can implement this program, carry it out, and execute even its smallest details, this program will mean prosperity and happiness to our people. I therefore ask you, each and everyone of you, to be wide awake and clear the deck for the execution of this program by guarding your respective jurisdictions against the untoward conduct, attitude and aggressiveness of the dissident elements.

My friends, economic development, as I said, is the key to a permanent, stable peace and prosperity. The whole world looks upon the Philippines, specially those who are fighting and struggling hard to gain the privilege of maintaining their own government and constituting themselves into an asset of the United Nations. The Philippines is considered as the depository of many varied and numerous treasures. We have the greatest mines not only in number but in quality. Our rivers and seas abound in rich wealth. Our lands, I need not remind you, are so fertile we need not exert too much effort when we plant seeds to be sure of a good harvest. Our air is not only adaptable to international communication. It is an obligatory point in international air travel. All the airlines are converging on the Philippines or Manila as an international airport, from the north to the south, and from the east to the west, or

vice versa. International commerce is converging also on our country. Strategically located, the Philippines also has socio-economic, commercial, as well as intellectual prestige.

Economic development, my friends, is not alone in our hands. It is also in the hands of those who have been invited to help us develop our land. Many of them would bring in capital. Many of them would come with technical knowledge. Many would come with technical experience. Many of those who otherwise would be eager, and ready to come and help us with inspiration and perspiration to develop this country, are now being apprehensive that, because of temporary conditions in the Philippines, they may expose themselves to the hazards of unprofitable investment. So it is necessary that as we maintain peace and order we tell the whole world that we are ready to cooperate with those well-meaning friends of ours from abroad.

We cannot by ourselves carry out the task of developing this country with our own resources. We have to count upon sympathetic friends who may cooperate with us. It is nice to talk of defending our own liberties, of protecting our own rights, of not allowing foreigners to dictate what we should do in this country, but this is nothing but mere talk. In the actual practice, in the practice of the world today, there is not a single nation that can call itself self-sufficient and alone.

We are not alone in the world. We are traveling along the high road of international life. We have our own friends and those friends who welcome us in their territory would also expect us to welcome them in our own territory. International cooperation is necessary not only here but everywhere. We are sending representatives abroad. We are paying salaries to ambassadors, ministers, and consuls to develop our international relations and along with those international relations is fundamentally our economic relations. So it is incongruous on our part to say that we do not need foreign cooperation in our national life. Sane internationalism, practical internationalism, zealous internationalism from the point of view of our protection—this is what we need today.

We want to invite capital. Every Filipino citizen who goes abroad either, to the Ignited States, to Europe, or to any other part of the world, always speaks of cooperation, always invites foreign capital, foreign elements to come and cooperate with us in the development of this country.

Let us make that good, but reserving those things which we need so that we may not: lose control of our life.

Economic development will; be the main activity of this nation for generations. We are now only rebuilding what were destroyed during the last war. We need to develop this country further. Expansion and development need foreign capital. I invite everyone of you to be broad-minded at the same time that you are indisputably patriotic and zealous of our affairs.

The moment we secure the loan we have applied for from the World Bank to finance our project of harnessing hydroelectric power both in Luzon and Mindanao, we shall inaugurate our program of industrialization. To think of a vast program of industrialization today may not be timely, but after the initial establishment of hydroelectric power, we may expand in Central Luzon and in Mindanao. At the start we shall supply cheap electric power not only to populated districts but also to the mines, factories, and even small industries. Having done this, we shall be able to determine our next step. So we shall lose no time in establishing hydroelectric power as soon as funds are available. In Mindanao we also expect to establish a plant to manufacture fertilizers with which to modernize and intensify our agricultural activities. I am quite sure that once the Maria Cristina falls is harnessed, we shall be able to supply the need for fertilizers of sugar lands in Negros as well as rice lands anywhere, in Central Luzon, the Cagayan Valley and, perhaps, Mindanao.

My friends, these are the three major projects of industrialization which we have in mind. We are no longer planning, we are ready to execute a well-defined program.

But the world situation today is increasingly menacing. While people talk of war, while people talk of negotiations and while people philosophize on what the United Nations may do, while present and imminent world conflict occupy world powers in general, one thing is certain: There are two powers who are restless, one represented by the

White Bear and the other represented by the democracies which have united themselves in self-defense and against totalitarian doctrines. The situation is not only cold war.

I am not sure that, if war comes, the Philippines will be directly affected. There may be some advantages, some blessings in disguise, if war breaks out and we are not dragged into its vortex. But it is always imperative that we unite and be prepared for any eventuality. We must unify this nation. There must be unity, there must be national solidarity and integration.

My friends, the whole world has its eyes on us. The Philippines must be a successful experiment in democracy, not only to keep outside observers from disappointment but also to achieve our dreams of centuries. To insure this result we must have a solid, integrated and united nation. The peculiar position of our country, divided into several thousand islands, makes imperative greater efforts toward unity. From the north, therefore, to the far south, from Batanes to Jolo, Cagayan, Ilocos and Pampanga, I appeal to every one. Forget our regional nomenclature and live only as one people.

Of course, we cannot avoid speaking in our homes the language that our mother has given to us but we have already adopted Tagalog as our national language. Eventually, we will solidify our nation by perhaps mutual surrender of some of our regional loyalties in order to make of this nation a single and solid unit. I appeal to you to help eradicate as much as possible the traditional custom to recognize as closer to our hearts those who have lived with us together in the same region. Let us accustom ourselves to living as one united, integrated nation.

My friends, there is nothing that I wish to emphasize more as head of this government than the necessity of winning and strengthening the confidence of the people, not necessarily in the Liberal party, not necessarily in the Nacionalista party, but in the administration, in the Republic of the Philippines. We have been wont to consider the administration as merely that of the Liberal party. This is not the case. There are at least eight provincial executives who belong to the Nacionalista party. But once you are governors, my friends, you belong to this administration. You don't belong to the Nacionalista nor to the Liberal party. You belong [*applause*] to the administration. Your success will be our success and your failure will be the failure of this administration, of this Republic.

One of the things uppermost in your minds should be official integrity. Official integrity is the key to the confidence and trust of the people. Place yourselves in closer contact with the people. Even a messenger in the mayor's office sometimes speaks for the municipal administration. The same thing applies to the provincial government as it would apply to the national government. The humblest employee, the meanest laborer in the public service has also with him the flag of the government, and when he besmirches that flag he besmirches its prestige. So I want you to guard against this possibility. Watch your subordinates, both provincial and municipal officials, so that none of them will go wrong. I would like you to have closer, frequent contact with the people.

In the past we constituted a group visiting far-flung-communities in an effort to bring the people closer to the government. We must do so not only during election time because we want to show that we have the interest of the people in the barrios but also now because we want to know their reaction to our administration and to the program we have adopted. Our objective now is to make the people be at home with the government. We do not only adjust ourselves to them. Let us see that the people also adjust themselves to the government which is after their own welfare, benefit and happiness. So, frequent visits and contact end in intimate relationship, which is the essence of the program of winning the confidence of the people.

I therefore request each and every one of you to inspect your provinces, your municipalities as frequently as possible. Take the people into your confidence; talk to them about your plans. Give them a chance to tell you not only of their wishes but of their grievances because once they get out of their system their pent-up feeling against the administration, they will feel relieved. Give them a chance to lambast you under your very nose but, of course, be ready to defend yourselves and come out triumphant.

Now, my friends, let us devote our full time to the question of administering the affairs of our people. We have been elected for four years. All of us will cease office in December, 1949. We only have one full year now to show our wares to the people. If in the past you have been quite sluggish or indifferent or hostile to the interest of your

constituency, we still have one more year to show our deep interest in their welfare. We are paid to administer the affairs of the government.

We will make available to you all the help, all the available appropriation, all the available power and all the available privileges for you to accomplish your commitments to your constituencies. Never in the history of the Philippine Congress has there been appropriated more money for public works than in the last session. Never in the past have we appropriated more money for various activities than in the last two or three regular sessions of the Congress. Verily, this administration has already prepared, almost completed, the basis of a national, stable, and independent government. All we have to do is to follow up these activities and, with earnestness and aggressiveness, accomplish those which are in our power to contribute in order to make this program a real success. We have made all available appropriations for public works expendable immediately, specially in typhoon-stricken areas. We have given facilities to every agency of the government so that it can serve the people.

We have one good example. When the Camiguin volcano erupted we showed how quickly we are able to respond to the needs of suffering people. All ships available were sent there, and representatives of the government, bringing relief goods, went there. It was a miracle that without much fanfare we were able to handle that calamity in such a way that speaks well of this administration. I am proud of the intervention of all the agencies of the government in coping with the situation.

I am quite hopeful also that a time is nigh approaching when the question of peace and order will be solved in the same cooperative manner, for it has got to be solved by all means, by forceful or prudent means. I hope the dissident elements will stop crying to the skies for benefits that cannot come except from the skies, that they will realize that this government is their government and that no other government will dominate this country now or in the future.
[Applause.]

My friends, I ask everyone of you to contribute your earnest effort in the deliberations and in the coordination of the programs and activities of this administration. You have one year, I repeat, not to talk, not to discuss, but to act. Immediate action, effective action, national action— that is what is expected of us. Thank you for coming.
[Applause.]

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Address of President Quirino before the student body of the University of the Philippines Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the student body of the University of the Philippines**

[Delivered on October 18, 1948]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Coming to the University of the Philippines is to me like returning to an ancestral home. As an alumnus of this institution, I feel the kinship to all and everyone of the faculty and students. Our family is getting bigger, greater, stronger and, consequently, more powerful every day. There is in this country today no human endeavor in which a member of ours is not found doing creditably his own share in the national upbuilding. Each and everyone of us here congregated should be proud that he belongs to this family—a family whom history will single out as having mainly shouldered the heaviest task of guiding the steps of the Republic of the Philippines in its tender years.

But, my friends, I did not come to make vain boasts of our achievement. I came rather to discuss with you the nature of the responsibility we have assumed and the role our country is duty bound to play in the international stage, if we are to survive as an independent people. I consider it proper that you should take time out in your curricular activities, setting a United Nations Week, to devote your attention to the practical consideration of the international problems of the day. I know I will not succeed within a space of a few minutes to analyze and discuss with you at length the present world situation, as a necessary background for this celebration.

The United Nations, now in general assembly in Paris, has devoted all its time to this work for the first three years of its existence. What it has done to furnish this perspective since its organization in San Francisco in 1945, or in its meetings in London, at Lake Success, or in Paris, is now written in voluminous tomes. For our purposes this afternoon, however, and for what I have in mind to tell you, it is sufficient to know the incontrovertible fact that the world today has not as yet found the formula to end wars or to make permanent peace. The first world war was ostensibly fought “to make the world safe for democracy”; the second “to end all wars”; and the third, probably, may be to dominate the world, or God forbid, to liquidate humanity. Thus it looks as if to attain peace the whole human creation must achieve a rebirth, a transformation so profound as to erase all distinctions of race, color, and creed and enable all peoples to feel as belonging to one another in heart, in soul, in conscience—one universal family before the eyes of the Creator.

But while humanity is not totally disillusioned—and I am not—and we are hopeful that the United Nations in its present sessions in Paris may successfully find a way of securing universal tranquility, we cannot sit idly and just wait for that happy moment. As a member of the United Nations, we must address ourselves first to the solution of all possible conflicts preventing the establishment of peace within our own borders. This is the immediate and primordial task of every nation desirous of contributing to world peace.

I see no logic for employing a world organization in a moment of national crisis that threatens internal peace. The tempered wisdom of the citizens, their mutual respect for one another, their restraint against the acts of violence, are far more effective in breaking down an internal crisis than any weapons that can be mustered out, either inside or outside, to quell it. The strength of any world organization for peace lies mainly in the individual efforts for peace of the units composing it. It is, therefore, our paramount and inescapable duty to make the Republic of the Philippines a strong place as a worthy unit prop of the United Nations.

But in the midst of the tremendous task of this new and courageous adventure of the peoples of the world, once again we are confronted with the issue of survival—on a world scale and on a national scale—in the face of forces and weapons more fearful than the world had hitherto seen or known.

On a world scale—the question is not whether one nation and its allies can obliterate another nation and its satellites, but whether both nations and their allies and satellites will have much of anything left, after all the fury, to make further effort for civilized living worth the candle.

On a national scale—the question is whether in the light of present world developments, our people can continue to sustain their free institutions and survive as a positive factor for the preservation of a free world.

In either case, we cannot afford to be mere interested spectators. We are deeply involved, are very much part of the tragic show. Mankind appears to be under sentence of complete liquidation, with the execution of sentence only hours away, if reason does not soon prevail.

The representatives of fifty-eight nations are now trying in Paris all their best to make that reason so prevail. That group of men is our very narrow margin of hope. It is our fervent expectation that they can strain their every effort now to convert the United Nations into a strong moral weapon to parry with force, if violence chooses to strike. The United Nations is at the moment on trial, submitted to its supreme test. God grant that the assembly will be a veritable pool of the world's lofty conscience, powerful enough to avoid unnecessary carnage to overrun the universe!

The crisis that stares humanity in the face may yet induce the brute in us to listen to reason. There is certainly a need, an immediate need, of drastic revision in man's thought and action.

I believe that man needs only to be properly challenged in order to respond. The human race has never been challenged by a greater and grimmer crisis than now. This is hardly the time for a romantic pose; the crisis is immediate and demands prompt decision. The United Nations Assembly now in Paris must not adjourn until it has made that decision. Man still has vast reserves of intelligence and courage adequate to meet the challenge of this hour. He has proven it before, and he can prove it again—now or never.

No amount of wishful thinking for any moment can help us in the present situation. I am not a defeatist, much less an alarmist, nor a sensationalist. But the stern reality is that while we hear voices from across the seas that the world situation is improving, military appropriations are being increased, commanders are being commissioned, and fighting forces are being alerted everywhere. As men and women who have stout hearts and who would not abdicate knowledge and intelligence in time of stress, we should not only hope for the best; we must also be prepared for the worst.

This brings me to our no less troubled national situation. Our immediate problem is to maintain a strong democratic government as the keystone to our free institutions. I do not know that any other kind of life can be tolerable and worthwhile without our free institutions.

We face active threats to our accepted ways of freedom. We face dangers that, unless adequately met, can destroy our Republic and render it useless in the preservation of a free world. Every Filipino who loves his country and his people must be concerned with the maintenance of a strong democratic government, the world situation being what it is. By a strong government I mean a government strong in the support, in the trust, and in the loyalty of all the people.

A government is essentially the handiwork of the people. It is what it is because the people make it so. A political party or a group of political parties may make or unmake momentous changes at any given time, but can never in fact run the government as they wish because the government is not theirs but the people's. A periodic election in the choice of our public officials is provided so that the people may freely express their will as to how their government should be run. This is also the safety valve which democracy has invented to afford public relief to political or partisan tension and insure faithful reflection of considered popular opinion in the administration of public affairs. Violence and revolution are illegal ways of expressing the popular will. The government, being the symbol of the will and power of the people, should be respected, its laws obeyed and its name and dignity upheld. This should be the utmost determination and ambition of all. And I wish to tell you, my friends, that as long as I am President, that will be my consuming ambition. [*Applause.*]

For the government, I repeat, does not belong to any group. It belongs to the people and comprehends everybody. It includes the last irreconcilable dissident whatever his grievances may be, fancied or otherwise, against the government. It includes the lowliest employee of the government who may feel frustrated because he does not move up fast, or his salary is so meager. It includes the omniscient commentator who assumes title to all the wisdom and the virtues and sits back to watch. It includes the sour oppositionist who appropriates all the idealism and the perfection and folds his hands. It includes the middle-class family head who takes offense at having to pay blackmarket price for his cereal. It includes the self-styled liberal who specializes in self-righteousness and moral ostentation. All of us, without any exception, are part and parcel of the government. There is thus no citizen who can wash his hands of his government, not even the humblest toiler, whose whole concern from day to day is to find the wherewithal of his daily rice and that of his family.

When I speak of a government strong in the support of the people, I am not asking that our citizens should merely give lip service of cooperation, by press statements or otherwise, but must show actually that they are endowed with the civic spirit to translate their words into deeds, their thoughts into action. What is more important still is for every citizen to continue exercising utmost self-reliance, to have a lively sense of his community obligations, to act upon them on his initiative, and to be responsive to every available opportunity for social cooperation. In other words, he should be a positive entity for good and not a passive one for evil.

Every time a citizen feels like asking what our government is doing about any problem affecting him, say food production, he should also ask himself what he himself is doing about it. He should ask what he is doing in cooperation with his fellow citizens to help resolve it. He should ask what he is doing in cooperation with the government itself to dispose of that problem. To the extent that a citizen exerts himself to meet his own difficulties and cooperates with others in the same direction, he strengthens his own government in doing what it is called upon to do for the good of the community and the nation. What holds true of the food production problem is true of the peace and order problem, the graft and corruption problem—any problem.

Our government can give us only as much as the totality of our citizens is prepared to give it in self-help, in loyal sacrifice, in vigilant cooperation. Please mark my words: “vigilant cooperation.” Its food production campaign is essentially a meaningful project in self-reliance, social awareness and common cooperation that tests the validity of our government and leadership. It is a grateful commentary on our people’s growing understanding and cooperation of the functions of government that more and more private citizens have volunteered and are volunteering to assist our police forces in cleaning up our troubled areas of elements bent on creating chaos to facilitate their illegal drive to power.

What our people do, however small in an individual way to increase our food stocks against the day of need, or to hasten the restoration of peace and order and thus secure freedom for productive effort, illustrates the positive opportunities of private citizens to strengthen our government and make it more effective as a real servant of the people.

Of the more pervasive problem of corruption which appears to undermine public faith in our government, may I say that accountability does not rest alone on the wrongdoers; neither is the responsibility exclusively that of the government. As private citizens we should look into our hearts and see that we do not observe a different moral standard. Often, it is the toleration of the double standard of morality by the public itself that lies behind office corruption, all claims to the contrary notwithstanding.

The cure to much of the ills of government which sap it of vitality must not lie alone in loud, pious breast-beating at the least provocation of an audience. To be fair it should start from a quiet, honest self-examination before it is projected to public notice. It must start in the conscience of everyone, in the discipline of every heart. In short, we must all be willing to take greater chances of being honest with ourselves. According as more and more of our people, leaders and common people alike, clean and clear up their own thoughts and acts, we shall raise the level of our standards of public life and strengthen our government, our Republic. We shall then be less ready to jump and to shake our fist at our neighbors and our government.

In asking that we all help make the government strong to be equal to the problems of our own time, I merely urge that we as individual citizens also make ourselves strong, that we impose upon ourselves the discipline that makes for vigor and integrity in our minds, in our hearts, in our will. Surely, upon the conduct and the reputation of a people depend the degree of respect for, and strength of, their government, perhaps more than the success or failure of the men that come and go in the government service because they are only there incidentally.

This is the fundamental challenge of our day. To meet the challenge we must be physically and morally strong to make our government strong. We must make our government strong to face the menace to our free institutions at home. We must be strong to meet the eventualities of a disintegrating world situation which endangers the freedoms we have won at so much sacrifice of blood, tears and treasure.

At the most critical times in our national history we have shown that we have the resources, the capacity, the strength required for any emergency at home. We shall not fail the human race in the reserves of courage and intelligence needed elsewhere by the forces of freedom and decency and justice, to preserve mankind for greater victories and nobler achievements of the human spirit. Our greatest contribution, therefore, to world peace and order under the present circumstances is a strong domestic policy for the preservation of our ideals and institutions and for the permanence of peace and prosperity in this our God-given land.

As students and alumni of this university, we are in a peculiar position to recognize our special responsibility arising from our knowledge, our capacity and our opportunity. This is a rare opportunity in this age and in this epoch of our history. This special responsibility is not to discover special rights and privileges for ourselves. It is to enable all our people to share the discipline, the excitement, the rewards of a life of freedom and creative peace—for our own country and for the world!

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Address of President Elpidio Quirino before the student body of the University of the Philippines, at 5:30 p.m., October 18, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(10), 3773-3778.

Speech of President Quirino at the Foundation Day ceremony and his induction as Honorary President of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines

**Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Foundation Day ceremony and his induction as Honorary President, opening the Silver Jubilee of the
Boy Scouts of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Malacañan Park, October 31, 1948]

I rejoice in this opportunity you have given me to participate in the celebration of the 25th year of scouting in this country. This movement, which was sparked by private American citizens and supported by all elements in the Philippines, has produced and will continue to produce most gratifying results. No other service has proved so enriching to the lives not only of our youth but also of those who have given it their encouragement.

Since its earliest years in the Philippines, scouting has transcended the limitations of class, creed, and race. It has brought together devoted leaders and servants of varying persuasions on a common basis of cooperation. To advance the cause of boyhood, they have willingly joined efforts, offered freely of their substance, time and thought. I have no doubt that, in forgetting differences in background, belief or circumstance in order to work together for a common cause, they have found the experience itself immensely rewarding, in terms of personal satisfaction and deepened appreciation of the potentialities of human character for constructive citizenship. For scouting as a cause and movement blesses both him that gives and him that takes.

Scouting is a positive force in developing individual self-reliance, community consciousness and neighborly cooperation, and addresses itself to the service and betterment of the most valuable resource that any community and nation can ever possess or boast of—its youth.

It is a tribute to the greatness of the movement that it attracts the best types of our adult citizenry for its leaders and supporters, including respectable, organized groups such as the Rotary Club, the YMCA, the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic and Protestant churches, our public and private schools.

The only explanation for this is that scouting is concerned with the material that makes what a community, what a nation, is—our boyhood. No individual citizen, no organization, that has any sense of responsibility and community loyalty, can be indifferent to a movement that builds and moulds our manhood in the shape and image of the kind of world we believe desirable to live in.

To adult private citizens, scouting thus offers opportunity to serve their community and generation in innumerable ways that challenge and measure their civic spirit and initiative. To them, scouting becomes a voluntary school in the democratic exercise of social responsibility and action. It is their instrument, too, for preserving and nourishing the best of our liberal and moral traditions.

Thus it was that scouting, developing from its English and American origins, has become an integral part of our own social institutions. Thus it was that on October 31, 1936, our legislature formally acknowledged that fact by enacting Commonwealth Act No. 111, creating the “Boy Scouts of the Philippines.” Our Government is, therefore, committed to its moral and material support, although the movement remains essentially the enterprise of our public-spirited private citizens.

If leadership in and support of scouting reflect generously on the adult citizens identified with it, the influence on the boys themselves who qualify for scouting is more far-reaching both on the individuals and on the nation. This influence draws the line between creative and constructive citizenship and individual irresponsibility; and marks the difference between social stability and community disintegration. And it roots more deeply our dependence on the wholesome resources of nature as the base of our physical and moral strength,

When a boy, having taken the scout oath, does his best to do his duty to God and his country, to obey the scout law, to help others and to keep himself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight, he describes and proves his qualification not only as a scout but as a citizen in a free society. He actively affirms the spirit of the true knight of medieval society and shows by action its validity in a modern community. He defines the boldest, most constructive challenge that can inspire the most generous response in normal, healthy boyhood in every respect, succeeding to the responsibilities of manhood.

I am deeply heartened by the fact that as of today, twenty-five years after the introduction of scouting into this country, we have 163,000 boys who are solemnly committed to that Scout oath. When I consider that the Scout membership in the country rose from 8,000 in 1945 to 163,000 in 1948, I cannot but be profoundly impressed by the rapid development of that national moral force of incalculable social strength which the Boy Scouts of the Philippines represents. For here, definitely, is material of the most valuable kind growing daily in power and scope; here is the stuff we need to build the nation on solid and lasting foundations. In the individual boy scout with his virtues of self-dependence, social sympathy, civic helpfulness, and loyalty to his people and God, we have the making of the exemplary enlightened citizen on whom rest the survival of our country in any crisis and the contribution our nation can make towards the building of a just and decent world order.

Indeed, when we expand this concept of the potentiality of the individual boy scout to the realm of international relations, we reckon with a tremendous world moral force that should raise the faith of all peace-loving peoples. In previous international scout jamborees at which the Philippines was proudly represented, the peoples of the world have been treated to a most heart-warming spectacle of universal concord and cooperation. Boy scouts from all over the civilized world, trained under one all-embracing-code of preparedness for service, have given eloquent demonstration of the practical promise of a united mankind. What a wonderful and subtle lesson the manhood of all peoples presently breaking their head and heart to unite the world can learn from their own boyhood!

We who are past the age for qualifying as boy scouts will do well to look into the objectives and activities of the movement. This is not only in order to understand its service and benefit to youth so that we may help and encourage our own boys to take advantage of them, but also to derive a fresh appreciation of its program for ourselves, particularly with reference to the fruitful use of leisure, the significance of the great outdoors to healthy living, and the spirit of tolerance and discipline and friendly cooperation.

I urge Filipino parents not only to encourage and prepare their boys to take up scouting but to enter freely into its spirit and ideals as a measure of preparedness. "Be prepared" is a profoundly wise Scout's motto. Opportunities upon opportunities slip us by everyday when we are not prepared—opportunities to make real men of ourselves, opportunities to make our home, our immediate neighborhood, our community a more healthy and more stimulating place to live in. A citizen is prepared when, in scout terms, he has health, intelligence, discipline; when he knows his duty to God and his country and accordingly has the wisdom and the reserves of character to fulfill it.

For the critical situation today at home and abroad and for all time and elsewhere, there is no better preparation than what the Scout oath suggests. There is no substitute yet, and I am sure there never will be, for the ample exercise that gives resiliency and toughness to our moral fibre, to our spiritual faith, to our loyalty to our Christian and democratic heritage.

Because scouting provides a practical program for such exercise in the fundamentals of purposeful living and citizenship in everyday experience, it becomes a duty to ourselves and to our country to know it, to advance it, to give it every possible ounce of support. We are grateful to the noble line of far-seeing pioneers who have brought it into active existence in our country. At this moment, I pause to recall in grateful remembrance the name of our great departed friend, Col. Stevenot, one of the most civic-spirited Americans that ever stepped on Philippine soil; our friend, General Lim; and to acknowledge the invaluable assistance, cooperation and leadership of Judge Camus whose influence in boy scouting in the Philippines will surely outlive him in his people's grateful memory. We should pray for continued vision and keep up boy scouting as a broadening and hospitable adventure in the intelligent and meaningful development of our boyhood from generation to generation—to give our nation the men prepared to discharge the responsibilities of an adult world.

A world of boy scouts, every one of them prepared to do a good turn, would probably be the fulfillment of mankind's highest dream of the good society. In our own little world, I take courage in the fact that we have the material today for such a society in the boyhood of our country. This group before me is the most impressive earnest of a better order that may be born of the difficulties that beset us at present. We should not too easily dismiss the poet who says there is no night so long but that has its morning. For this inspiring spectacle is a veritable dawn of a new day, entirely distinct from, but definitely more civic-minded and morally and physically stronger than, our boyhood of yesteryears.

Mr. President, I am proud of the honor of being your Honorary President.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Speech of President Elpidio Quirino at the Foundation Day ceremony and his induction as Honorary President, opening the Silver Jubilee of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, at Malacañan Park, at 8 p.m., October 31, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(10), 3779-3782.

Address of President Quirino on the occasion of the 15th Foundation Day Anniversary celebration of the Far Eastern University

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of the 15th Foundation Day Anniversary celebration of the Far Eastern University**

[Delivered at the F.E.U. campus, November 5, 1948]

I am quite impressed and astounded by the growth and development this center of learning has attained during its brief scholastic history. It has so grown as to have attracted students from even beyond our confines. Its success as an institution ranks among the best achievements of our people in the past quarter century. It has established its roots, and is today worthy to take its place among the oldest institutions of learning in the land. Human wisdom has been distilled here and has founded a university that can vie with the older ones in other lands. This is a signal achievement for which the builders of this university should receive our highest commendation on this occasion. And I do it, and I extend it, with reverent respect to its founder—Dr. Nicanor Reyes.

On this fifteenth anniversary of its foundation, it is fitting that its leaders renew their pledge to guide the youth unerringly toward light and truth, toward virtue and wisdom, and for all of us to remember in the light of the new day that a training purely scholastic in nature is worse than useless—that for a university conscious of its responsibility the goal to strive at is brains that will think and brawn that will work.

I am sure that the founders of this great institution are not satisfied that they merely help prepare the youth to make a living and get on in society. For a university deserving of its great name such as this should be concerned not only with making the individual under its roof round out his latent powers and possibilities for himself and that of his country or community alone, but also with furnishing him the proper inspiration to utilize his trained abilities to promote the true intent of enlightenment, which is that of real service to his fellowmen—every man.

There is an old idea that a university is a convenient haven for isolating oneself from the harsh realities of the workaday world, suggestive of the monastic seclusion of a medieval day that assures the amplest leisure for digging deep into the knowledge and wisdom of the ages. The search for truth, it is held, is a most arduous pursuit requiring absolute freedom from distraction, and the university as a continuing repository of culture should provide the surroundings for it. There is no doubt there are some temperaments admirably conditioned for this type of existence. It is not to be questioned that a university, may provide the necessary conveniences. The past was even wont to provide old ministers of state, century-old statesmen, with quiet seclusion for meditation and study as their own reward for distinguished public service.

The narrow and exclusive notion of a university occupying a cloistered place in the life of a community has, however, long been discarded. We have long since outgrown also our uncritical worship of erudition for its own sake. Today a university must live up to the exigencies of the present and not merely in loyalty to the past as it has hitherto done from age to age. It has become an institution in which any citizen who has the mind may seek definition and articulation of the common world in terms of the arts and sciences evolving before his eyes as well as of the wisdom of the past. We look to the university as a dynamic institution to broaden our understanding of human knowledge and of every part of that world, so that we may pass freely back and forth between the factual and the ideal, and partake of the ennobling adventure between active participation in life and thoughtful withdrawal from it as suits the exigency of the moment.

A university is to be encouraged for delving deep and wide in the vast field of human knowledge and wisdom if it is to expand the outlook of the students, if it is to extend their vision and raise their aspiration to increasingly higher levels of social cooperation and achievement. But in doing this it should clear through the worn-out and antiquated intellectual rut which has clogged men's minds from century to century since the inception of authoritarian doctrines and philosophies.

We must emancipate ourselves from over-indulgence in classical or philosophical abstractions, which has so long passed for wisdom of the ancients who discoursed on half-truths for lack of better knowledge of the world then, in order that we can give free range to our intellects in the face of newly acquired knowledge and wisdom from modern scientific discoveries and researches in the new realm of thought and science. This is suggested not as an escape from classical boredom, but as an indication of the high road of real advancement which the modern universities must blaze if they must retain their title to intellectual leadership.

A university does not stop at simply making knowledge and wisdom available to all. It should train the students to make appropriate use of them and to attain the biggest possible measure of usefulness in the everyday life of their community and country. It gives students the perspective which comprehends the rewards of a gainful occupation and the moral and spiritual satisfactions that come of social services and of time well-spent.

The day is past when we can conveniently live to ourselves and ignore the condition of peoples in other parts of the world. As individuals and as a people, we have our own problems. But our attention should not be limited to these problems; it should also seek to discover the relation of these problems to those of other individuals and other peoples. Our personal and community welfare is intimately bound up with the welfare of others, not only within but also outside our homes and our national frontiers. It is definite that no man can any longer encrustate himself in the restricted shell of his personal and national interests and live as he ought or wishes to live. Other peoples look to us, too, and watch us. They have an interest in our problems, in the solution of these problems. At least we are submitted to that scrutiny in this part of the world. They, too, realize that in the solution of our problems, they may find the key to their own, and the key to the problems that we have in common with the world. They look to us for the accomplishment of certain tasks which make up our common life in the changing world in which we live.

As we prepare ourselves for our own tasks, we must accordingly let others examine our efforts and our endeavors. And in doing the same for others we must start familiarizing ourselves not only with our country and its problems, but also with all of the outside world. We must explore and discover the way to accomplish the urgent tasks that people are facing everywhere. This is a service which this university and any other university of the land can well render.

For nowadays, it is also the function of a university to prepare the youth to become citizens not only of their country but of a new world. We have our responsibilities and opportunities as citizens of a young Republic. We must make that Republic succeed. It is our responsibility to this young generation and we have accepted that challenge two years ago. But we must also provide for the proper execution of our role as a component part of a bigger society of republics. Our universities are expected to provide us the leadership for that goal. We are called upon no less to participate freely in the making of a new world order, and our universities should show our citizens how to become internationally adaptable, internationally useful, internationally creative. This we must consider as our duty in the growing society of free peoples; and our universities must prepare our youth to, live up to the duty to contribute generously to world peace and advancement. This is not a mere ambition. This is hot an endeavor beyond our power. We are actually being called upon to contribute our share not only in our immediate neighborhood but also in international conferences and deliberative assemblies being held throughout the world, engaged in pooling mankind's knowledge and resources for the peaceful and stable life of all peoples.

In spite of national and racial differences and difficulties arising from centuries of division and isolation, the peoples of the world are moving towards eventual unification as the only alternative to human survival. We, too, here in our little world, must move forward, as we are moving forward, on the basis of mutual apportionment of the pertinent virtues of rival political, economic and ideological systems in every land.

Heretofore, smaller nations have been regarded as mere pawns in the international chess game. Certainly, we— as intelligent, strong, energetic Filipino race—refuse to be regarded any longer as such. We must now assert our own personality, no matter how insignificant it may be, in order that the destiny that God has assigned to all nations, great and small, may be fulfilled. After all, the great bulk of the smaller nations of the world constitute a respectable portion of God's creation. On this side of the globe alone, for instance,—this we call the Eastern World—we represent no less than a billion people whose potentialities are scarcely developed, and are at least not as exhausted as those of the old world or the new world. We are eager to assert our collective individuality, to shoulder our share of responsibility, and to receive the rewards which may come our way.

When I speak of this side of the world, I also mean the other portions of the world where similar smaller nations exist and are being considered also as mere pawns, or satellites of bigger powers. They should join the crusade for self-assertion for the sake of peace and self-preservation. They and we and all the rest of our kind may be unwillingly dragged into any international conflict at any time.

If such an event should come, we should not merely pray that we may be spared the worst. It is our duty to strengthen ourselves. We can minimize the severity of our lot by doing so. Perhaps, by strengthening ourselves, we may yet convert danger into opportunity, for who knows but that the new international conflict, if it comes, may after all open for the weaker the great opportunity of survival and salvation. If we are not going to be subjected to the cruelties and brutalities of war, and if our already scarred lands are not converted once more into battle ground, and I hope it will not be when an international conflict arises, we may help alleviate the sufferings of the warring nations by providing them what produce we can raise—and raise in plenty for their needs. We can help build a new world order by rearing up with our constructive genius a citizenry more alert to and more understanding of the world problems which plunge nations into armed conflicts. We can help create a people more responsive to the demands of others in material and moral assistance conducive to the mutual protection and security.

While the bigger nations fight for mutual destruction, my friends, we the smaller ones should strive for construction, for reconstruction, for permanent strength and endurance. Here lies our salvation, maybe also a well-earned glorification.

A university rich in perspective and keenly sensitive to mankind's integration must, therefore, realize its responsibility to prepare our youth for the new challenge. Any effort short of this objective robs our youth of the inspiration of those values that entitle a man to his dignity and mankind to its expanding freedom. Any performance short of this objective reduces a university to futility and simple deception. According as a university succeeds in the making of a whole man and not merely a creature of his own selfish needs, it advances the day of mankind's unification and its entrance upon its full inheritance.

My friends, the vision is there. The challenge is there. We have the youth, we have the manhood, we have the institutions to produce the necessary leadership. I am confident that, given the faith, the courage, the dedication, the determination and the will to progress and to prosper, we shall yet emerge strong and powerful from the travails that today are testing our country and the world.

This University can advance no greater cause. The Filipino youth can pledge himself to no worthier consecration. The determined peoples of the world can have no nobler reason for being. Forgetting the fears and the mistakes that are behind, we shall, in concert with like-minded nations, press on to that high goal which is mankind's insuperable dream and destiny.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Address of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, on the occasion of the 15th Foundation Day Anniversary celebration of the Far Eastern University, held at the F.E.U. campus, at 5 p.m., November 5, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(11), 4244-4248.

Message of President Quirino on Armistice Day

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On Armistice Day**

[Read by Secretary of National Defense Ruperto Kangleon at the Armistice Day celebration at the Army and Navy Club, November 11, 1948]

I appreciate the opportunity given to me by the veterans of World War I to share with them the thrilling recollection of Armistice Day, November 11, 1918. Although since then another world war has been fought, no armistice marks its conclusion. But I am certain that the keen eagerness for world peace that seized humanity 30 years ago today continues to live in the hearts of all men.

As everyone knows, the first and only armistice was bought with the lives of millions of men, comrades-in-arms of the veterans who now are the backbone of the American Legion. It is our duty and the duty of all other men of goodwill to preserve the peace which they won at so tremendous a sacrifice. The American Legion, I feel certain, is one of the vital forces contributing to such a preservation.

It may be somewhat strange to think of peace when the world seems to expect war. But the truth is that more than ever before the yearning for peace is universal. That yearning has given reality, first to the League of Nations, and, later to the United Nations. If the United Nations, profiting from the shortcomings of its predecessor, can continue to provide the nations with an effective forum in which to discuss peace, it may prove to be the formula for the millennium.

But the millennium will come whether with or without the United Nations, only if the peoples of the world can revive and make imperishable the feeling of universal friendship and forgiveness that the Armistice 30 years ago engendered. This, I think, is the challenge of Armistice Day, a challenge which we must all meet successfully or perish in the ruins and ashes of our hard-earned culture and civilization.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Armistice Day message of President Elpidio Quirino, read by Secretary of National Defense Ruperto Kangleon, at the Armistice Day celebration at the Army and Navy Club, November 11, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(11), 4252.

First Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

First Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines With the Filipino people

[Delivered over a national radio hook-up by remote control from Malacañan Palace, November 15, 1948]

MY COUNTRYMEN :

This is a simple chat with you. I am speaking from the chair which, under the Constitution and by popular will, belonged to our beloved departed friend, the late President Roxas, and which was also occupied by our no less beloved President Quezon and President Osmeña. I am making an effort, great effort, to do honor both to the chair and to the former illustrious occupants.

Seven months ago, as you will remember, the stewardship of the nation was thrust upon me under distressing circumstances, cutter on my I was cruising in the South in a small way home when I received the news of the tragic death of President Roxas. I, too, was a sick man then, and the rest that I needed and the health that I recovered from that leisure trip had vanished upon the receipt of so shocking a news. It took me time to regain both my composure and my health. Thank God, I was able to go through the ordeal, but only to face both a new challenge and a great opportunity for service.

Fifty-eight years. Yes, I will be that old tomorrow. I thank the Lord for having kept me that long, although I am beginning to think that the time has been too short for what I consider my mission in life. We mortals usually stop to think how long we should live only when we realize our duty and opportunity to serve our fellowmen. Carefree and gay, we often do not wish to remember our age. But when the cares and problems of life overtake us, there is a solemn moment when we pause and ask ourselves: "What has been my mission in life? Did I prepare myself to accomplish it? What have done so far? Do I have time to bring it to fulfilment?"

These questions I am asking myself today. I shall not make a vain effort to show that I have been a good citizen, a good school teacher, an honest taxpayer, a dutiful legislator, a conscientious administrator, a lover of my country and defender of its rights and liberties, and a protector of the name and dignity of my race. In all honesty, I must confess that I did not purposely conceive all these as my mission in life. It would be presumptuous on my part. Such opportunities as there have been were thrown into my lap as inescapable responsibilities to discharge, as duties to fulfill in the course of my struggles and endeavors as an ordinary citizen of my country.

In my whole life I practically have taken things as they come. I have followed the shape of the world, I have not presumed to order it to my taste or fancy. Poor as I am, I have always tried simply to do the job nearest to hand to the best of my ability and sought satisfaction in honest performance, in improvement of the situation as I found it, not in attainment of perfection nor in special display to startle the neighbors. Whether I have had any success or not, I shall leave it to history and to the sober judgment of my people. What encourages me at the moment is that my children who have been watching my conduct closely all along are happy and proud of me; I like to think that perhaps even my absent beloved ones feel the same way about me. I can say to them and to all that I have been keeping the faith. At least my vanity as a father is more than satisfied and I am happy over my children's bias.

But what specially concerns me today, and this is what I would like to share with you all at this hour, is a just appraisal of our country and its problems and a proper perspective of our future in the light of present world developments.

Our country is only two years old as a Republic. There are myriad things that everyone of us who have helped to establish it must do to make it succeed and endure. To begin with, we must realize our individual responsibility for its continued existence. We have fought hard and long to secure and establish our personality as a sovereign nation.

It would not be just to our heroes and martyrs, to all those who valiantly fought for our preservation in the darkest hour of our history, and to our Republic now, it would not be fair to ourselves and to our children, if we should leave in the hands of, a few the determination of the welfare and future of our nation. Every citizen must do his bit to protect it, to make it strong. Every citizen must contribute his share to the preservation of our life of freedom. To this end, as an integral part of our collective personality as a nation, every Filipino from the remotest reaches of Jolo to the farthest island of the Batanes group must play his role as a member of only one family, subordinating his regional and sectional loyalties to the national well-being and contributing his share however humble to its attainment. National solidarity is our primary imperative.

We have to develop our country without loss of time. We have the promise and the basis of a substantial life. We often speak in pride of our unlimited natural resources. Of course, a nation that depends largely upon the generosity and good graces of another is bound to be a servile parasite. And to look exclusively to the paternalistic direction of others to develop our resources is to foster our economic servitude. But if we cannot presently develop our national patrimony for lack of capital and technique, we would be wanting in honesty, wisdom and patriotism not to invite and encourage financial assistance and technical cooperation from friends of our choice outside, principally the United States of America. After all, we live in an age of world cooperation and mutual assistance. Ours is the opportunity and the duty to welcome such cooperation and assistance and to assure the fairest returns without surrendering or forfeiting the proper control and direction of our own economy, our financial and our social welfare. This, I am confident, we can hold and maintain with properly regulative measures, supplemented by a dynamic sense of individual and collective responsibility to respect the rights of others and to protect our national interests. We must have a firm basis of our economic security and social stability, resting on our moral integrity, civic spirit and national loyalty.

Having outlawed war as a means of settling our national differences with other countries, we must continue to increase our friends abroad. We must keep broadening the basis of understanding and cooperation with them. We must be prepared not only to make friends but to keep them, to be loyal to them, to be true to our commitments to them, without sacrifice of national self-respect. No country in the world today is self-sufficient, no country depends exclusively upon its own armed forces to defend its territorial integrity. The days of old; when one country could wage war against another and make it directly and strictly an affair between them alone, are gone. Peoples and governments today live a common life so closely interwoven in pattern that no individual nation can injure any part of the fabric without affecting the warp and woof of existence of the others. We must, therefore, so conduct ourselves as to find our legitimate and rightful place in the international fabric and justly share with the world in its progress and prosperity. Our national independence has meaning and substance in direct proportion to the friendly interdependence that subsists among the nations of the world. We must therefore be internationally-minded in the most practical and statesmanlike sense.

So that we can concentrate our undivided attention on the development of our country and the uplift of our race, we must have peace and order within our own borders. We have vast programs of agricultural, industrial and social development. Instead of watching one another, standing vigil for the security of our families in the dead of the night, we should be thinking hard and working out a systematic schedule of constructive action for every new day. We are tired of wars. We have already seen so much blood, destruction and tears in our centuries of struggle for our freedom and liberty. Now that we are free to act and determine our own future, we must use and enjoy that freedom without fearing and; encouraging the misguided designs of our own brother against the common interest. We must be chary ourselves of the activities that would undermine and destroy our freedom, we must take care that we do not lend ourselves as instruments of others for the same mischievous end. We must cast aside fratricidal rivalry and hate amongst ourselves and not allow personal dislikes to drag the nation to dispute and disintegration. Let loyalty to our country and people be our ruling passion.

Governments and institutions today exist for the welfare of all the people, especially the underprivileged, the downtrodden, so-called, who have had little or no share of the good things of life. This has been the touchstone of my every thought and action ever since I assumed responsibility to advance the welfare of my countrymen. The government functions must be so sparked, implemented and made to generate all the power possible to secure this end. I need the cooperation of all elements of my land to secure the realization of this objective. I am committed to it and I knock at the door of every right-thinking and right-hearted man of my country to ask him to contribute his bit in the achievement of this Christian aspiration. No Filipino however gifted, no group of Filipinos however favorably

placed, should and can claim exclusive title to the inspiration and performance of this bigtask. Social amelioration is a lofty project of all, by all, and for all. With its accomplishment and that of all the things and objectives I have just enumerated, we shall have, each and everyone, a generous share of peace and prosperous fulfillment.

My countrymen, these are the considerations uppermost in my mind on the eve of this, my first birthday anniversary, as head of this nation. These are my earnest wishes tonight, tomorrow and all succeeding tomorrows. I pray the Lord that He may hear me and that my people may heed me.

I invite you all to turn a new leaf with me tomorrow.

I hope to meet you again over the radio at this hour, on the same date every month henceforth. Until then, good night.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). First monthly radio chat of President Elpidio Quirino with the Filipino people, over a national radio hook-up by remote control from Malacañan Palace, on the eve of his 58th birthday anniversary, November 15, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(11), 4248-4252.

Message of President Quirino on the occasion of the National Child Health Day

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of the National Child Health Day**

[Read by Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista at the Manila Jockey Club, November 19, 1948]

I am happy to inform you that when I issued the proclamation setting aside a National Child Health Day, I had in mind the all-important objective of inculcating in the minds of the mothers of our country their bounden duty of giving their best possible attention to their newly-born. As the most precious of our resources, our children should be properly protected against diseases of infancy and childhood. I consider it an important function of the state to substantiate this policy and to that end, it is my desire to implement this policy to the extent that the resources of the Government will permit. As one of the steps in this direction, I shall endeavor to encourage all health agencies to extend medical service to the remotest corner of the Archipelago.

The Government has always given encouragement to this work by recommending liberal appropriations not only for the extension of medical service but also for higher salaries to the maternity charity clinic physicians. The Congress of the Philippines has appropriated ₱2,720,000 for this purpose. I am assured by Secretary Villarama that practically every municipality in the Archipelago now has a maternity center and that the attitude of our Congressmen and Senators towards these centers is one of support and encouragement of the goal of extending service to far-flung barrios and townships. There is also an appropriation of one million pesos from the Sweepstakes fund to subsidize private hospitals which are established or which may be established by private initiative far from the centers of big population. With such assistance, it is possible that medical science will soon reach the greater bulk of our people with its much-needed ministrations.

I can never over-emphasize the fact that I am strongly for the conservation of the human resources of the Philippines. Within the limits of our means, we shall go on increasing the number of our public dispensaries, maternity houses, hospitals where the expectant mothers can come for advice and treatment, for as a general rule, healthy parents beget healthy children. Indeed, strictly speaking, the campaign for better health among babies and children should, start before they are born. Such care should be in continuous cycle.

Unfortunately, poverty, living conditions of the mothers and of the newly-born are important factors affecting health. The economic lot of our people, specially the laboring class, should be constantly improved. Since my assumption of office, I have given deep concern to the living conditions of the poor, those living in the slums. Settlement houses for the poor, for which they will pay low rentals, distribution of land, and the resettlement of some of our people in virgin areas are among the measures the Government is taking to improve the conditions of our masses. As one coming from the rank and file of the people and afforded an opportunity to be of service to them, I consider the social amelioration program a most important effort of my administration.

It has been noted that one of the problems with which the Government is confronted in its attempt to assist prospective mothers both during their prenatal and postnatal periods in caring for themselves; and for their children, is an apathy and even a resistance which is more or less wide-spread. Sectors of our population still distrust modern science, preferring to resort to the ministrations of unqualified midwives or herb doctors. Such an attitude, needless to say, is a great stumbling block to the efforts of the Government to bring medical knowledge and service to every household.

For this reason, the medical agencies of the Government not only extend medical service but, in many cases, must first convince prospective or actual mothers of the greater efficacy of scientific medicine. In the latter task, you who are here and all others who have the welfare of motherhood and childhood at heart, can help greatly and effectively. You can preach to your relatives and friends and acquaintances the gospel of scientific care of mothers and children.

You can set the examples in your neighborhoods and in your communities by regularly availing yourselves of the services of trained physicians and nurses. By your preaching and your examples, you will help the Government by taking over much of the burden of educating our masses in the merits of scientific medical care and thus enabling our health agencies to concentrate their efforts in actual medical work. The proper care of mothers and children involves knowledge of scientific feeding, of hygiene, and of many other matters in addition to actual medical care. Improper diet for mothers and children can have fatal consequences. In fact, for children below seven years old bad feeding has caused more deaths than any other factor.

We need not go very far back for proof that the efforts of the Government to protect mothers and children from carelessness, ignorance and diseases have produced substantial results. Our rate of mortality among children in the earlier ages has decreased Considerably. Although such decrease may partly be attributed to inoculations against certain diseases like smallpox, dysentery, cholera and typhoid, the scientific care of mothers and children should properly be credited with a substantial contribution.

I wish to take this occasion to express my own appreciation for the splendid work of our physicians and nurses in the field. In their work are not mere medical practitioners; they are they are also pioneers and missionaries. They are performing a task of great importance to the people and the country. They deserve the gratitude not only of the Government but also of a race that is constantly improving in health because of their ministrations.

By their devotion and consecration to duty, with the assistance and support of mothers everywhere and the recognition by the Government of the great importance of their work, I have no doubt that we can expect continuing improvement in the health of our people and, therefore, in their economic, intellectual and spiritual capacity.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Message of President Elpidio Quirino on the occasion of National Child Health Day, November 19, 1948, read by Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista at a program at the Manila Jockey Club on the same date. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(11), 4255-4257.

**Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino at the Reunion of Class of 1911 of the Manila High School,
November 14, 1948**

**Extemporaneous Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the reunion of the Class of 1911 of the Manila High School**

[Delivered at the Malacañan Park, November 14, 1948]

CLASS REUNION

At the reunion of the Class of 1911 of the Manila High School which took place at the Malacañan Park on November 14, 1948, the President was presented by his former classmates, through General Basilio Valdez, an oil painting of an old family portrait, more as a token of sincere affection rather than a tribute to the high office he held. Touched to the core, President Quirino responded in the following extemporaneous speech delivered in a light vein in keeping with the cordial atmosphere that pervaded the happy reunion.

MY DEAR CLASSMATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
AND FRIENDS:

I REALLY cannot describe the emotion that overpowers me at this moment. I know that there are reasons why we should get together once in a while, but to me, there are more than one thousand reasons why I must see my former classmates. When the cares of life overtake us, especially when we want to stay young and live again our youthful adventures of student days, we love to gather our classmates as if they were immediate members of our family and recall those days when we were young and gay. Today, I am feeling that way. I do not admit that I am old. Those who judge me as old or growing older had better talk to me in another vein, because I would hate to talk to them. I would rather have people remind me of my youthful days because that memory is what I really need at this moment. I need to feel young. I need to feel vigorous. I need to feel strong for the task on hand.

We have read the same books. We enjoyed the same literature and solved the same problems during our school days, but when we separated after leaving the Manila High School, each one went his way. We spread throughout the land and invaded almost all activities in our country. I am proud to remember at this moment that we were gratefully accommodated by our respective communities, encouraging us to succeed in the respective lines which we had chosen. But as we travel longer in life, there are really times when we, as tributaries of the great stream of life, meet momentarily somewhere, sometimes face to face, sometimes together, and sometimes converge upon the same dam, and we create power.

Today, as we get together, I imagine that we have joined together again into the big main stream of life, at such a dawn, bringing together all the accumulated strength, all the vigor, all the achievements that we have won during the past 37 years of our existence. And now, we really constitute a power, not only among ourselves but in our country. *(Applause)* It would certainly be a pity, if, having all these advantages in our hands now, we should let go that power without properly utilizing it. It would be a sad commentary on our sense of self-respect if we should destroy the accumulated strength, power, vigor, and enthusiasm that we have built through all these years. Today, as we are gathered here and you show me affection and cordiality, you give me a new source of strength and inspiration. As we are gathered here bound by the indissoluble ties of a common boyhood, I want to tell you, my friends, that I am as happy as if I had joined my late family, the members of my household who are gone. You take their place in the choicest corner of my heart. *(Applause)*

The painting that you have presented to me I shall preserve not for my own contemplation but for my children. I have one of them here, Vicky. The other is playing golf. I wish to show you that I have done as good work as you have done, *(Applause)* and I am as proud of them as I think they are proud of me. They will be the ones to contemplate this beautiful painting. They will be prouder still because you accompanied it with the sentiment just

conveyed by General Valdez. As they view this picture after twenty or thirty years perhaps, they will recall this occasion when you pledged to me your affection, your encouragement, and your kindness.

My friends, this is not yet my birthday. That is why I said that Doctor Llamas had made a mistake in wishing me a happy birthday this morning. That is advancing my age. I shall be 58 years day after tomorrow, but I want to assure you that those 58 years were well spent—58 years of hard work to make a name. I hope that today you can look of your old classmate and can say “That man was my classmate,” and in doing so feel not shame but pride. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

Oh, yes. This is another sample, another masculine sample of my youthful activities—Tommy (As Tommy Quirino, only surviving son, enters hall from golf link). I don’t know how to express my appreciation for the effort you have exerted in extracting something from your pockets in order that you may buy an oil painting as costly as this. But I feel no pangs of conscience because when I saw each of you rise as his name was called, everyone looked to me, if not physically fat, at least fat in the pocket. You are all successful proprietors or professionals; so I am sure that it did not pain you at all when you contributed to buy the oil painting. Your contribution will not be in vain. I shall keep the portrait as a treasure. I shall be proud of it, and you will, I hope, be proud of me. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1948). *The new Philippine ideology*. Manila : Bureau of Printing.

**Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino to the Faculty and Students of the Silliman University,
November 24, 1948**

**Extemporaneous Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the faculty and students of the Silliman University**

[Delivered at the Silliman University, Dumaguete, Negros Oriental, November 24, 1948]

I AM GUIDED BY NO SELFISH REASONS

To bring further the government closer to the people, one of the main aims of his administration, President Elpidio Quirino, accompanied by members of his family and high government officials, left on board the "S. S. Argus" at 8:00 P. M. on November 22, 1948, for a 12-day tour of the Visayas and Mindanao.

Speaking before the faculty and students of the Silliman University in Dumaguete, Negros Oriental, on November 24, 1948, the President warned against the evils of Communism and urged his audience to bear in mind that "this government will not countenance unnecessary deviations or distractions from its present work of reconstruction." He explained further in the following speech which he delivered extemporaneously that his visit to the provinces was inspired by his desire to bring the political sub-divisions of the country together "so that we can rise with the strength of a compact and solid nation."

Mr. TOASTMASTER, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND FRIENDS:

I AM rather tongue-tied because, at first impulse, I was going to express my appreciation for the closing remarks of Congressman Teves, but I think I can reserve that for some future occasion, should his prophecy come true. *(Applause)*

This is not the first time I have visited your province. In fact I can trace my political evolution upon the times of visits that I have made to your province and the difference in my position every time I have come. I came here first as a Senator. Then I came as Secretary of Finance. Afterward, I came as Secretary of the Interior; later on as candidate for vice-president of the Commonwealth; and now, as chief executive of the nation. I feel that after having reached the highest pinnacle of my political career, I should not have visited you again as a public official, if I have to follow the official chronology of my visits to your province, because there is no position higher than that of chief executive. *(Applause)*

But this time, I came as a friend, and it is perhaps more important for me on this occasion to have a heart-to-heart talk with the people of Negros Oriental than merely grace the occasion of the inauguration of this beautiful city and hear hosannas to heaven, to the enhancement and elevation of this political community.

We have to save our energies and enthusiasm for the most pressing problems of the day. I wish, however, to have a chance to see each province, each municipality, each city, each community, so that I may be able to hear and feel and see conditions for myself and thus keep in tune with our people and country and together develop into a stronger nation than the one we have inherited from our past leaders of past generations. I do not know but that God might have set aside for me the temporary mission to carry on from the brilliant beginnings of this administration, despite the opinions of those who may be considered ill-wishers and deprecators right here in the Philippines, in your very midst, some of them our closest friends before. We hear complaints bewailing the situation in the Philippines and blaming everybody, even the deceased and departed friends, for things that we have not been able to accomplish. It would have been a miracle to have accomplished immediately all the things that we had in mind upon the assumption of office of President Roxas, including the restoration of peace and order and the rehabilitation of our country, since the Philippines was just at the beginning of her postwar recovery.

My friends, witnesses who have gone or come from abroad, both of our kin and race, as well as temporary visitors in our country, have been unanimous in describing in laudable terms the present conditions in the Philippines, the reputation that we have won in terms of our high spirit and our indomitable morale after the war, and our efforts to rise from our prostration immediately after the international debacle of 1941-1945.

All these friends here and abroad have been one in voicing their commendation, repeating praises of people outside the country and at the same time making vocal the envy of other nations of the peaceful situation, the constructive effort, and the determination that the Filipino people have shown in their effort to rise from their prostration. We are surrounded by countries in the Orient where one hears nothing but the booms of cannon and the hisses of a discontented populace. In our country, we have people who would like to rob the government of the opportunity to do better than what others have done before them, of people who are so eager to grasp power in order to carry on their dastardly objectives, of people who have not been able to rise from their lot because of suspicion, hatred, and fratricidal fight. We are surrounded by all these circumstances and by all these voices, yet we have concentrated our attention on our business, we have buckled down to work in a determined effort to accomplish all those things that mean the immediate reconstruction and rehabilitation of this country.

It was a blessing in disguise perhaps, that we were involved in the World War which ended in 1945. We came out of that war with a new name, with a new dignity, and even with many well-wishers and friends abroad, and we entered the family of free nations with friends on all sides, with sympathizers everywhere, with friends who are now cooperating with us to make of our venture in national life a success.

While the Philippines is envied and esteemed by peoples abroad, some of our people, motivated by political differences, continue to nurture in their spirit and souls sentiments that weaken our national solidarity, our national economy, and our national strength.

My visit today to the Province of Oriental Negros has been inspired by nothing but my desire to see that the political sub-division of the country can be brought together, can be made stronger, can be made attached to each other so that as we rise as a new nation, we rise with the strength of a compact population and with the single objective of making this nation solid and great and worthy of the attention and admiration of the whole world.

My friends, we did not accept democratic principles and practices, believing that we were free to do everything we wanted, to say anything we wanted, to destroy institutions, character, homes, or traditions. We are building, my friends. We should not destroy the materials available for our reconstruction. It will not do us any good at all to destroy one single good material which we may need in the erection of our national edifice. If we engaged today in this pastime—in this pernicious practice—we must be prepared not only to lose the materials that we badly need but also to deprive ourselves of the rare opportunity to utilize those who in the recent past may have been regarded as political debris but who have emerged from the crucible of war and postwar politics cleansed and purified.

The time has come, my friends, for us to be more broad-minded regarding the qualities and aptitudes and the experiences and high aspirations of the men that were tested in the past. We should give them the same opportunity that we give to the new elements that have come forward so that in the construction of a national edifice we may have the benefit of their experience and training and their past record, thus each and everyone will find his rightful place and exert his best efforts to build a firm, cohesive, and solid nation.

This is my aim today. I came guided by no political doctrine. I came guided by no partisan objective. I came guided by no selfish reasons. I came here guided only by the general welfare of the people, especially of those whom we have neglected in the past in our continuous political wrangling which is one of the curses of this nation. I say curse, because politics has always been a deterrent to our economic development, and the greatest obstruction to our national solidarity.

My friends, let us, each one, as men and women of this new nation, realize our duty to share in making it stronger—let us be more worthy of our nation and of our traditions. (*Applause*)

I did not expect to make a speech. I think I have said more than I should say to you. In my enthusiasm to convey to you my innermost feelings for the City of Dumaguete and the Province of Oriental Negros, I realize that I have gone quite far.

It is far more important to me, however, to hear from you as representatives of the City of Dumaguete and the Province of Oriental Negros. I repeat, I came to hear, to see, and to feel the conditions and sentiments of your localities precisely at a time when I am preparing a comprehensive message to the representatives of our people in the next Congress. I want to be able to tell them that I have seen the conditions in your respective communities with my own eyes, and to hear with my own ears and feel with my heart the needs and sufferings of my own people.

Gentlemen, I want to hear from you in a few minutes. I want to hear from you about your public works, your schools, your roads, your irrigation systems, your industries, and the problems and difficulties that obstruct your efforts and plans. If I had time I would visit every municipality and see your factories and your institutions of learning. I would like to spend more time in the Province of Oriental Negros, but, unfortunately, my time is not mine. I am only acting in consonance with the ticks of the clock, and I don't think that I have enough time to do so between now and midnight, but I am quite sure that I have a few minutes more to listen to you if you will just come forward and present to me the problems or the issues of the day in this province or in this community.

I repeat, I came to hear, to see, and to feel. The first thing that has touched me is your cordial welcome to me and my party. My friends, this is more than I can take home. It will be a source of encouragement when I go back and try to do something for you in Manila. Thank you very much. (*Long applause*)

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1948). *The new Philippine ideology*. Manila : Bureau of Printing.

Message of President Elpidio Quirino on the occasion of National Heroes' Day program of "Mga Kapatirang Alagad ni Bonifacio," November 30, 1948

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Read by Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista
On the occasion of National Heroes' Day program of "Mga Kapatirang Alagad ni Bonifacio"**

[Delivered at the foot of the Bonifacio Monument in Balintawak on November 30, 1948]

National Heroes Day focuses our thought upon those courageous and selfless men who laid the basis of our freedom. Of those heroes, Jose Rizal and Andres Bonifacio are foremost. They were the founders of our liberty and independence.

Rizal contributed the thought and Bonifacio the action that at the turn of the century launched our nationalistic movement which culminated about five decades later in the establishment of the Philippine Republic. The two were partners in deed, yet they never worked together. The first opened the eyes of our people and stirred their emotions into aspiring for dignity and liberty, but he was basically a man of thought, a philosopher whose weapon was the written word. He mustered all the might of the pen to arouse the race. The second perceived that the psychological warfare waged by Rizal had taken full effect and had the wisdom to realize that the time for action had come. He organized his countryman for revolt; he took to the battlefield to translate Rizal's dream into reality by the might of the sword.

Since we have set aside December 30 as a day in which to remember Rizal, today we think mostly of Andres Bonifacio. So it is that this spot upon which a grateful people have erected this majestic monument to the Great Plebeian is the scene of this simple but sincere celebration. Today is Bonifacio Day more than anything else; it is a day when the revolutionary leader has primary claim to our reverence and our remembrance.

Andres Bonifacio lives in history as the man of indomitable courage. Sharing the new aspiration Rizal had stirred up in the hearts of the Filipinos, he started from nothing and out of nothing created the great tidal wave that washed away foreign domination over our country. He wrought the miracle that liberated the Filipino race.

In addition to his fierce courage, Bonifacio possessed a genius for organization. At a time when the people existed under complete police control, he was able to organize the *Katipunan*. In this work, he faced the greatest danger and, at very turn, risked his life as well as the lives of his associates. Yet so excellent was his timing and so eloquent his presentation of the deep yearning of the country for liberation that his society was not discovered until it had become so widespread and so well-knit that he was able immediately to take the field of battle. Bonifacio was God's gift to a downtrodden people in the hour of their greatest need.

But while he had talent for organization in abundance, he lacked a comparable genius as a military leader. It was not long before other military commanders outshone him, finally wresting the command of the Revolution from his hands. He died in apparently ignominious defeat not in the hands of the enemy but of his own compatriots.

But, given the proper perspective of time, history is essentially just. When Bonifacio died, he had already performed his assigned share of deeds in the most critical period of Philippine history. His was a task so vital and so basic in the building of the Filipino nation that he will forever be entitled to the deepest gratitude and the most abiding reverence of our people.

Bonifacio's life, indeed, teaches us that the work of nation-building is not that of one single man but that it is cumulative and continuous to which every man of good-will has his contribution to make. In the same way, upon the foundation laid by Rizal, Bonifacio, and the other heroes of the Revolution, Manuel Quezon, Sergio Osmeña, and Manuel Roxas and their generations, we are called upon to add the fruits of our own best efforts so that this nation

may continue to progress and prosper and our people may reap an increasing harvest of liberty, contentment, and the good life. Only in this way can successive generations of our race fulfill the dream conceived by Rizal and initially translated into reality by Andres Bonifacio.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1948). Message of President Elpidio Quirino on the occasion of the National Heroes' Day program of the "Mga Kapatirang Alagad ni Bonifacio,". *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(11), 4257-4258.

Speeches of President Elpidio Quirino, and Italian Charge d'Affaires Vittorio Strigari, on the occasion of the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Friendship between the Philippines and Italy, December 10, 1948

**Speeches
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
and
Italian Charge d' Affaires Vittorio Strigari
On the occasion of the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Friendship between the
Philippines and Italy**

[Delivered in the Council of State room in Malacañan, December 10, 1948]

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH OF RESPONSE

Monsieur Strigari:

I am happy to have been able to put this in final form thus solemnizing the friendship between Italy and the Philippines.

One of my fondest recollections in my recent trip abroad when I went to Europe was the day when I was able to sign the Treaty of Friendship with Italy in Rome on July 9 last year with my good friend whose friendship I appreciate and whom I admire for his charming personality and high prestige in the Government of Italy, Count Sforza.

Long before I signed this treaty with him I already had had a feeling that Italy was always close to the Philippines. As a matter of fact Rome is the symbol of our spiritual aspiration. With His Holiness residing there, our people have always regarded Rome, and for an endless period to come, as our guiding spirit in life.

When I found time to sign the Treaty of Friendship in Rome with Count Sforza, having seen at a close range the reconstruction of the world as a necessary aftermath of the world war, I thought then that perhaps because Italy and the Philippines had suffered almost identically and simultaneously the greatest of all sacrifices, it was time for us to rise from our own prostration and that in a practical work-a-day world we must find a basis of cooperation, our problems of reconstruction being identical in nature and urgency. One of my happiest moments in that trip was to be able to sign the Treaty of Friendship with Italy.

Today, as we exchange the instruments of ratification of this Treaty of Friendship between our two Governments, we reiterate again the admiration and acknowledgment of the Filipino people of the spiritual guidance of Rome and of the mutuality of our interests. What I have just said comes directly from my heart. "Amor con amor se paga." On that basis, I think we can work of at our own future in the spirit of mutuality, cooperation and goodwill.

Mr. President:

It is the happiest and most successful occasion of my career, this ceremony of today for the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Friendship between Italy and the Philippines.

What we have laid today is the foundation stone of an edifice, which in the views of Your Excellency and of the Italian Government, shall be solid and permanent.

The foundation stone is solid because this Treaty is loyal and sincere when it records our mutual pledge that there shall be everlasting peace and friendship between Italy and the Philippines. We are two republics, both profoundly

Catholic, both truly democratic and both protruding towards the same ideals of Peace, Justice and Freedom in the world, without any political friction whatsoever between us.

Today we have asserted a basis of common ideals, tomorrow we have to build upon it a network of mutual interests and real collaboration.

It is only in intensifying our trade exchanges and our cultural relations—it is only fighting together our political battles for Peace, Freedom and Justice in the world that these premises laid down today will be really implemented.

Italy and the Philippines. It is a cause for real emotion to us Italians to find here—so far away—at the limit of Asia—a people of Latin culture, of Roman Catholic religion, of the same ethics and family ideals, who can rightly claim to belong—by historical evolution and elective affinity—to the great family of Latin peoples, descending from the same ALMA MATER.

And it appears quite clear that the intellectual and moral preparation of the Latin culture, is the main characteristic which has made the Philippines so progressive, so outstanding—and, let's say: so steady and happy today, among the present turmoil and decadence of the Asiatic world.

And now, in concluding, I would say one more thing. How should we behave for the implementation of this pledge of friendship between Italy and the Philippines?

Mr. President, you have already defined what our mutual attitude should be and I will recall your exact words, which I would like to put as an emblem of our friendship.

One day, visiting Your Excellency for the usual routine matters, I couldn't help but say: "Mr. President, it is a fact that every time I come to see you, you always find a way to confirm to me—with your kindness and cordiality—that the friendship between Italy and the Philippines is not a vain word."

Your Excellency did answer:

"I have been to Italy; I have appreciated your country and the friendliness of your people towards the Philippines. And as an old proverb of your country says:

"AMOR CON AMOR SE PAGA."

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Speeches of President Elpidio Quirino and Italian Charge d'Affaires Vittorio Strigari, on the occasion of the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Friendship between the Philippines and Italy. (1948). *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(12), 4805-4807. Speeches of President Elpidio Quirino and Italian Charge d'Affaires Vittorio Strigari, on the occasion of the exchange of the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Friendship between the Philippines and Italy. (1948). *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(12), 4805-4807.

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino at the National Economic Protectionism Association Revival Banquet, December 30, 1948

**Extemporaneous Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the National Economic Protectionism Association Revival Banquet**

[Delivered on December 30, 1948]

**THE PRINCIPLES OF THE NEPA NEED A
RESTATEMENT**

In connection with the national observance of the 52nd anniversary of the death of Dr. Jose Rizal, His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, attended two programs on December 30, 1948. The first was held at the Holy Ghost Auditorium at 5:30 P. M. where the President was guest of honor of the Orden de Caballeros de Rizal. Its principal feature was the installation of His Excellency as honorary member of the association. The second was held at 8:00 P. M. at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel where the President was principal speaker at a NEPA (National Economic Protectionism Association) Revival Banquet, the revival of the NEPA being the Motif of the year's celebration of Rizal Day. The following was the speech delivered extemporaneously by the President at the NEPA revival banquet.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND FRIENDS:

I CAME as a bidden guest to participate in this program which is part of the celebration of Rizal Day. I don't know which is incidental on this occasion, whether the NEPA or Rizal. But I think that both can be the subject of our discussion this evening.

The advance publicity for this banquet aroused my curiosity. I was led to expect new Filipino food, beautiful girl waitresses dressed NEPA style, delicacies peculiar to our country which for the last five or six years we have not tasted. I have not seen these things; I am disappointed. I even have the distinction of being more NEPA than your chairman tonight. I received just a while ago the honor and distinction of being Honorary Member of the *Orden de Caballeros de Rizal*. I am not suggesting new honors but I think I deserve them because I am a better NEPA member than the presiding officer. When he saw me tonight, he wanted to go home and put on his *barong Tagalog* but I said, "With or without *barong Tagalog*, your idea, your practice, and your business principles and not your attire will tell whether or not you are a good NEPA man. I think I am right.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I started to say that this affair is part of a national program in remembrance of Dr. Rizal. I propose to dwell tonight on some of the phases of his life which up to now have not been given sufficient importance. We already know Rizal well as a writer, as a scientist, as a social leader, as a poet, even as a painter, an architect, a patriot, a hero, and a martyr. But very few realize that Rizal was also an economic leader as well as the first and the greatest ambassador the Philippines has ever produced.

As an economic leader, he founded the *Liga Filipina* way back in 1890, the year I was born. Although the Spaniards believed that it was a fraternal society whose object was to overthrow the Spanish rule, at bottom, it sought the commercial and agricultural development of the country. When Rizal was deported to Dapitan, the society died because of the lack of enthusiasm of those left behind. But Rizal really thought it was necessary for the Philippines to rise as an economic power in order to thwart the attempt of the Spanish rulers to absorb control of our economic life.

Although as far back as 1780, by Royal Decree, an association called the *Liga Economica del Pais* was formed in order to encourage the Filipinos to organize themselves economically and establish here a nation of substance, the association also perished for lack of interest not only of those who were directing the affairs of the state at the time

but of those concerned or directly affected. The young people on whom Rizal had placed his hope for the country resumed in recent years the idea of reorganizing the economic system. You will remember the organization of the *Bagong Katipunan* way back in 1927 or 1928. I was one of the organizers with President Roxas and other friends. As far as the substantial future of the country was concerned, that association also died a natural death. But there was enthusiasm in spreading the doctrine of protectionism, perhaps in a more aggressive manner than that of the NEPA. Yet it died a natural death because it lacked encouragement. Its appeal to the people was not so far-reaching and was directed to the heart and not to the mind and it largely ignored the practical needs of the people. It was all preaching. We did not organize anything to base our preachings on and to demonstrate the soundness of the laudable purposes of that organization. I still remember how President Quezon killed that organization with just one word. When he called it "Bagong Katipunan", everybody laughed it out of existence.

I don't want the NEPA to have the same fate. I will pick up that subject again later on in my few remarks, but I want to dwell for a while on Rizal's activities as an ambassador. Rizal, possessing the highest nationalistic mind in the country, saw to it that the Philippines was near to the heart and soul of other countries. In his writings, he never mentioned the Philippines alone. He never patronized her products alone. He never used our own languages alone. He never talked of our people alone. He talked of many countries and subjects, and used several languages. In fact, he knew 22 languages. He studied the economics, the ideals, and the aims of other countries. He did not only acquaint himself so intimately with the literature and science and political progress of other countries but also saw to it that their peoples were brought nearer to us by the bonds of culture and friendship.

The greatest admirer of Rizal was not a Filipino and did not live in the Philippines. It was Blumentritt. And, by the way, I have just read in the papers that Dr. Blumentritt's son and his family are displaced persons in Germany. Some of the writings and original manuscripts of Dr. Rizal which were once in his possession as a heritage from his father, and which are valuable to those who love Rizal's works, have been seized by the Communist authorities. I will offer my cooperation in the sense that we acquire those manuscripts and keep them in the land of Rizal's birth.

Rizal, in his desire to know the world, unconsciously became the greatest ambassador of our country. He combined in his life the nationalist idea of awakening national consciousness in ourselves, thus solidifying our people in order to establish here a government of our own worthy of the name of an independent, sovereign nation. At the same time he so attracted world attention that even at that time the Philippines and the Filipinos were well advertised. The world knew him. His poems were recited not only in Latin America but even in the United States as well as in Europe. I still remember that great Congressman (Cooper of Wisconsin) who recited Rizal's poem during a session of the U. S. Congress.

I want to admit in all frankness, my friends, that when I was invited to be your guest this evening, I thought long and carefully whether I should come and give official encouragement to and confirmation of the revitalization of the activities of the NEPA. Many fear that the revival of the NEPA is premature since we are still reorganizing our economic forces to establish here the foundation for a strong nation by inviting foreign capital to cooperate with us in the development of our natural resources. We are inviting the world to be our friends. Yet we are organizing ourselves into a nation that is satisfied with our own local resources, which we develop for our exclusive benefit. Owing to this apparent contradiction, I think that there is need for clarification. When I was invited to speak here, I had to call the members of the board of directors of the NEPA to discuss with them the real purposes of the reorganization at this stage of our national development.

I wanted to be sure that I was not going to be misunderstood tonight. I wanted to be certain that whatever I say here would count with the support of the organization. I came here in a helpful spirit and I want you also to cooperate with me in this administration. (*Applause*)

It is understandable that we should be nationalistic in our outlook. After centuries of struggle for our independence, the natural reaction is that once our independence is in our hands, we should shape our own destiny ourselves. The world knows how we fought valiantly to secure the boon of liberty. The world knows how loyal we have been to our allies, even in the darkest hour of our history. But what the world does not understand, perhaps, is the fact that after we have risen from our prostration, we feel it necessary to control our national economy. No country in the world has ever been able to stand on its own feet unless it had organized itself properly and stabilized its economy and secured for herself a future that would be a joy to posterity.

It is natural, therefore, that the Philippines should aspire to be as self-sufficient or economically independent as possible. But there is no country that can be considered absolutely self-sufficient or economically independent. This fact tends to confuse us; so at the height of our campaign for political independence, the country was divided. One group wanted political independence first, ahead of economic independence another advocated economic independence first before political independence.

Those of us who believed that political independence should precede economic independence won, for it was necessary that we had all the instrumentalities of power and authority in our hands to be able to establish a nation. Once we had secured political independence, we could adopt a program of national economic development to enable us to make secure that political independence. It is therefore, natural that now that we have in our hands all those instrumentalities, we should work out a program by which we can develop our country in our own way. But because there is such apprehension on the part of our friends abroad whom we are inviting to come to participate with us in the development of our country, it is necessary that we make clear our position so that we may not be accused of having been hypocritical when we approved the Parity Amendment.

Very few countries have done what we did in 1946 when we amended our Constitution in order to extend to American nationals the same rights and privileges as the Filipinos enjoy in the development of our natural resources and exploitation of our public utilities. We did that because of our faith and loyalty and of the assurance from the United States that that country would be helpful to us as we rise from our prostration. We did it because America was then the sovereign power, although she did not impose it, and she made us understand that if given the opportunity to help develop our natural resources and public utilities, she would greatly help in stabilizing our economy.

In that belief and conviction, we amended our Constitution. It would now seem inconsistent on our part that after giving the American citizens the same rights as Filipinos enjoy through the Parity Amendment, we would now try to exclude from our market American products and perhaps discourage the investment here of American capital. But I have received assurances from the NEPA spokesmen that this is not the case. Officially I am going to announce that I shall not allow any discouragement of foreign capital. We shall continue to invite foreign capital, not only American capital but also Chinese capital, French capital, Spanish capital, British capital, any foreign capital. Our only aspiration is to be able to control our national economy so that we can establish our sovereignty over our economic life. Participation of foreigners in the enjoyment of the patrimony of the state is a hospitable pleasure to us. We are known to be hospitable. We shall not change that enviable trait.

Our goal, therefore, is simply the control of our national economy. That is the basic purpose of the organization of the Central Bank. We want to have a central institution which will provide capital and promote industry and agriculture. Our economy will be directed by a central organization which encompasses all the economic activities of the country.

But foreign capital is certainly not excluded by the organization of the Central Bank. The Central Bank will be the bank of banks, of local banks, foreign banks, all sorts of banks and institutions of credit. In our program of industrialization, we do not mean to exclude foreign products. We shall only aspire to produce for our own consumption those products that can well be produced here more advantageously, more cheaply, products more adequate and suitable to the taste of the Filipino people. I have issued the Import Control Regulations in order that we may be able to balance our payments abroad. It is not with the idea of excluding foreign products. We want simply to regulate the quantity and quality and, perhaps, the extent of international commerce so that the influx of foreign goods will not destroy the stability of our national economy.

So the principles of the NEPA need a restatement so as to jibe with the policies established by the government in organizing the Central Bank, in issuing an executive order on Import Control, and in adopting an industrial program. These policies constitute the economic program of the government which cannot be assailed on the basis of selfish motives.

The Philippines is a result, I have said it once and I say it again, of international cooperation. Countries from the east as well as those from the west, countries from the north as well as those from the south, have come like successive

waves that lash our shores and each has left its mark in our commerce, in our culture, in our religion, in all human influences that now constitute Filipino life. We are not the Filipino nation that used to be four centuries ago.

Even our racial appearance now, our racial structure, our outlook, our habits, our customs, are no longer those of the Filipino race that Magellan found here in 1521. Look at the faces of the people around us. There has been cooperation even in the homes and in the souls and in the hearts of many people of various races here. Such is our life. Such are our ideas, such is our economy, and such is going to be our outlook. We are situated in a strategic position to receive from every direction the influences that we need to stabilize Filipino life and Filipino government.

Our strategic position, however, is like a double-edged weapon. If we allow without limit and regulation the influx of capital, the influences of foreign agencies in the Philippines, they will destroy the Filipino people. On the other hand, if we do not allow as we have allowed in the past the cooperation of all nations that want to participate in our national development as well as in our political uplift, we are going to be left behind in the advancement and progress of the world.

Take the case of air traffic as an example. We have here only one air company officially supported by the government; we have in the way of subsidy actual shares in that company, the PAL. Manila has become an international point of necessary contact. Airplanes from the east as well as those from the west stop in Manila. The same is true with airplanes coming from the north or from the south. There may be five or six or ten air companies from countries with which we have aviation treaties. They have free entry here. They stop here and take passengers. If we do not regulate the air traffic so that we can insure a reasonable share of the business, our only company will naturally face ruin. So the natural position that we have to adopt is to so regulate international air traffic so that we can retain our share of that traffic.

What I say of air traffic, I can also say of steamship companies, of the import and export business, and of other economic activities. There must be regulations adopted by this country under the laws and the Constitution which must be respected, which must be followed and given recognition and cooperation from outside, so that they will mean something and not amount to mere scraps of paper. Our position, in the Philippines, therefore, is to allow every nation, every country, every businessman of any clime or color, to participate with us in the development of our natural resources and public utilities as well as in our international commerce and other economic and financial activities. As long as the control of business, the control of our national economy, is in our hands, there can be no limit to international intercourse in this regard.

This too, I believe, is the fundamental principle upon which the NEPA is being revived. It is of course necessary that in order to develop our local market for our own products, we encourage the purchase and use of our own products in preference to those produced outside and imported here in great quantities. But in order to protect our own products, it is not necessary that we exclude other products. Articles from abroad may be necessary to stabilize prices in order that such prices may be within the reach of the poorer class. What we should do is to increase production, improve our local products, cultivate Filipino taste for, and pride in them because they are beautiful, not merely because they are our own, without necessarily excluding foreign products. If we can do this we shall achieve something for our own benefit and lasting interest.

I would discourage overemphasis on emotion in the campaign of the NEPA. I am not going to tax our people, much less attack their habits, by telling them through emotional appeal to give preference to Philippine articles as an act of patriotism and Filipinism. That to me is the narrow-minded way of convincing our people to consume our own products.

In my opinion the best way to campaign on behalf of our own products is to produce them cheaper, to make them suitable to our tastes, and to produce them in sufficient quantities so that we can rely on a steady supply in case of need. In order to do this, we must promote small industries. We must build our economy from the bottom, rather than from the top. The big corporations, the big companies, can find assistance and help from outside. They can secure capital abroad at low interest, but the small industry, the small industrial activities, industries which we call cottage industries, possess no international credit. They should, therefore, be encouraged and built from the bottom

and financed from our own funds. This is a program upon which this government has already embarked, and which is going to guide all the activities of the Central Bank and all the credit institutions of the country from now on. If I can do something to promote the interest of the NEPA in this regard; if I can do something to multiply the small industries, to give them the incentive and necessary cooperation, to encourage appreciation on the part of our people for our products, to produce our products in big quantities at cheaper cost and in accordance with our taste, I am for the NEPA one hundred per cent. (*Applause*)

But let us not be misunderstood. We are launching the NEPA in support of a program for the growth and development of the country. It is not necessary to exclude foreign capital, much less, to discourage our friends whom we are inviting to come and invest with us, in order to develop our natural resources and exploit our public utilities. We should continue to invite them to come and establish industries here. Once such industries are established here, they will in effect be Filipino industries. In their benefits, they will have no nationality; they will be neither American, nor Chinese, nor British, nor French. Once an industry is established here, it becomes a local industry whose growth, prosperity, and stability will be to our lasting benefit and interest.

My friends, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express myself in these few words. I hope the NEPA will progress and flourish in the sense in which you and I have understood its objectives. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1948). *The new Philippine ideology*. Manila : Bureau of Printing.

**Speech of President Quirino on the occasion of the birthday anniversary of the late President Manuel Roxas,
January 1, 1949 Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of the birthday anniversary of the late President Manuel Roxas**

[Delivered over a national radio hookup from Malacañan Palace, January 1, 1949]

The country marks today the first birthday anniversary of our first President of the Republic since his unexpected passing nine months back. But for an inscrutable stroke of destiny, he would still be with us today in the flesh to share our New Year greetings and our humble tokens of joy and grateful affection upon his achievement of another milestone in his exclusive dedication to the service of our land and people.

In keeping with the spirit of this day, he would likely chide us if we were to spend it hanging grape. I like to believe he would rather have us ponder the opportunities that remain ours, to keep on where he left off in working for the happiness of our country. I like to believe also that he would rather have us count our blessings for having had the consecrated leadership such as he and others gave our country in the past so that we might measure against them the responsibilities that are ours, to prove worthy of the heritage they left us and to enrich it for our children. And it would not be improbable he would prefer that we express our loyalty to, and affection for, his memory in terms of positive and concrete action to fulfill the ideals behind the program of service which was the breath of his life.

It usually takes years before a people can give a definitive measure of the greatness of its men. But President Manuel Roxas' place in the roster of noble men and women produced by our country is secure. His rich and varied contribution to the cause of our country's freedom and happiness is acknowledged by all. Our country need not wait to be told he was among the greatest of our great.

We who knew him well may now report our varied reactions to the direct impact upon us of his dynamic character and spirit. We can recite our obligations to him for his having been with us and of us.

Two days before he was stricken and snatched from our midst, he, by some uncanny prescience of what was in store for him, spoke of his thoughts on his graduation day thirty-five years back at the University of the Philippines—of remembering Shelley's lines about being “. . . a billow in the crowd of Common Men, that stream without a shore, that ocean which at once is deaf and loud.”

He recalled that on that day he determined to devote his life to the achievement of liberty and happiness of his countrymen.

“I have never swerved,” he said, “from that course. I am still engaged in the task of securing the greatest good for our people. In its performance I had to face quite often the bitterest struggles and the keenest tests of heart and soul. I have reaped neither riches nor material gain, but as I look back to the years that I have lived, I feel happy that I have throughout been loyal to my purpose and have not deviated in the least from the high resolves I had formed on graduation day.”

Roxas was addressing his Alma Mater as though making a final accounting, which in effect it was. He did not know it to be so, but no one who has lived with him, worked with him, struggled with him, fought with him can say that the faithful alumnus could not have been more honest.

It was a humble affirmation that shines with honest pride, It was a summation to which every student of Roxas' life from now would have to turn every so often as the final frame of reference in estimating his stature.

Roxas felt the call to the service of his country and heeded and pursued it as few men could and did. Roxas labored for his country as one consecrated and inspired. He had to be, to achieve the success he did, starting from the humblest opportunity of service. He had the heart of an evangel, and men were but to hear him to catch his flame. The voice is now still, but the inspiration, the eloquence, is still there in his messages to his people, compounded of the tears, the sweat and the keenest wisdom that come of grueling experience in the service of his country.

People have remarked on the practically olympian indifference with which President Roxas regarded every manner of threat or menace to his political fortunes. And they have often wondered at the secret of his serenity and assurance in the face of the bitterest personal assault and revilement. I think I can hazard a guess. It is that he had incorruptible integrity and his dedication to the public welfare irrespective of politics was absolute and secure. It is also, in addition, that he had confidence in the patriotism and intelligence of the people. For the people, according to him, is not composed only of an active and vocal minority which criticizes the government every time the government touches its pockets. His watchword was to be never afraid, and to have faith in the sense of justice, in the patriotism of his countrymen.

The reverses that Roxas met in his career of service would overwhelm lesser men. Roxas rode them out and made himself well-nigh invincible in spirit. They were the price of leadership and he did not grudge to pay.

Thus it was that in the most difficult period attending the emergence of our people as a free nation, he was prepared to give us the vision, the discipline and the morale to rise to our tasks of rebuilding from the ashes of war and the moral debacle which was not only a national but a world-wide affliction. What Roxas contributed to the fight for our country's freedom alongside other stalwarts like Osmeña, Quezon and others assures him a definite place in the gratitude and affection of his people. Greater still was the measure of faith and courage, the sharp vision and superb generalship with which he rallied the people to stand on its feet and accept the responsibilities of liberty, providing it the basic chart with which to follow its rough course to its destiny.

He was a strong man for a distracted day. He brought morale to a depressed people. He picked the loose threads of a nation's spirit and wove them back into an orderly pattern of courage and confidence. The amount of public obloquy he suffered in his life was surpassed only by the public affection lavished upon him in death. He proved in his case that a people could only be most cruel to one who passionately loved it.

His faults arose from the simple humanity that moved his heart in the discharge of the sternest duties. They are essentially the faults of men strictly reared to the standards of abiding democratic traditions—in which human rights and human values take precedence ahead of all other things.

He had the gift of inspiration and eloquence. The power lay in the depth of his feelings, the greatness of his spirit, and the clearness and breadth of his vision.

It will be our lasting tribute to the spacious range of his vision and sacrifice, to the largeness of his heart and spirit, to treasure the wisdom of his words and to measure up to the challenge of the program of development he left us, the supreme touchstone of which is the welfare and happiness of all our people.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). Speech of President Quirino on the occasion of the birthday anniversary of the late President Manuel Roxas. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(1), 178-181.

Address of President Quirino at the ceremonies inaugurating the Central Bank of the Philippines, January 3, 1949
Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the ceremonies inaugurating the Central Bank of the Philippines

[Delivered on January 3, 1949]

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Today, as we inaugurate the Central Bank, a historic scene in our financial and economic history unrolls upon the national stage. We are taking a decisive step in economic self-assertion. When in 1933 we minutely scrutinized the provisions of the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act which had divided our country into two schools of thought, we delved deeply into the economics of our independence. A group of men who later formed the Philippine Economic Association then envisaged and advocated in a book eventually published as a result of their studies, the organization of the Central Bank as a means of insuring our economic progress and stability and providing the firm basis of our political independence. For reasons which I need not here mention, although the plan was everywhere lauded, we did not find fertile soil for its germination and growth. The chief impediment was the lack not only of means and experience but of sovereign authority to accomplish it. When therefore I signed the bill creating the Central Bank a few months ago, I hailed it as the Charter of our economic sovereignty; for, indeed, its significance to the economic life of the nation may well be compared to the Constitution that governs its political life.

The passage of the Central Bank law, together with the general revision of our banking legislation, aside from the great number of constructive measures which became laws, constitutes the most far-reaching achievement of our Congress. The present composition of the Monetary Board has merited the unanimous endorsement of our people. In itself, the quality of the men chosen for the Board inspires the people's confidence in the success of the Bank.

We have long felt the need of banking and currency reforms. As we carry out our program of development in an effort at total economic mobilization, the Central Bank becomes both a challenge to our ingenuity as a people as well as an opportunity to show our creative faith in our economic future. We aspire for full employment and development. Our natural resources must be completely and efficiently utilized if we are to survive as a nation. The Bank should encourage the development of infant industries and the establishment of new ones by giving both the proper and due incentive in financing them. Home production of our primary and vital needs must at once be given impetus. The last war has shown not only resourcefulness of our people but possibilities of expansion in many of our material endeavors. We may need economic and financial reorientation to adapt ourselves to the new situation in which we find our people struggling along with the whole world for peace and contentment. We must insure an increasing fullness of life for all our people.

In co-ordination with the work of the National Economic-Council I charge the members of the Monetary Board with the duty to employ the full measure of their vision and intellect in order to achieve this goal. The Bank being the central dynamo to generate the lifeblood to nurture our economic structure, the eyes of the nation will henceforth focus its attention to the manner in which the members of the Board discharge their tremendous responsibilities. All the activities, public and private, in the agricultural and industrial order, as well as in the financial and commercial field, shall revolve around this central financial institution. Its operation will be a test of our economic judgment and competence as a people. The extent of its success or failure will be the measure of our name in the financial and economic world.

Great as our hopes are for the success of this new instrument of our national advancement, of this, necessary and effective machinery for our rehabilitation, for the supply of the full monetary requirements for the immediate realization of our productive possibilities, our great concern should be that in its operation the stability of our currency should not be sacrificed. In the credit operations of the Bank providing for the requirements for capital funds in our varied enterprises, great care should be exercised to guard against the dangers of inflation.

Increase of investments is an essential requisite to raising productivity. To promote a higher rate of capital formation, it will be necessary to encourage and accelerate our rate of savings that should be channeled in heavier volume into investment projects. Hence, the immediate necessity to create a government securities market for increasing the mobility of the country's idle capital. We need to reawaken our people into increasing fruitful investment and to inspire proper confidence in canalizing their savings through government securities. I hope that this undertaking will receive the support of all elements in the country.

Recognizing the dangers involved in inflationary financing of our economic rehabilitation and development by undue expansion of credit, the government has already taken important steps to control expenditures and increase the revenues from all sources. Measures have been adopted to reduce the importation of luxury and non-essential articles. To promote economic stability, the fiscal policy of the Government and the monetary and credit policies of the Central Bank should and will be properly coordinated. Only thus can the Bank promote a rising level of production, employment and real income and, at the same time, maintain the internal and external stability of our currency.

Under the wise guidance of the Monetary Board in whose members' ability and patriotism I have an abiding faith, it is my fervent hope and firm conviction that the nation will evolve well-coordinated fiscal, monetary and banking policies consistent with sound economic development and the requirements of continued monetary stability. Its Charter has made the Bank the jealous guardian of the value and convertibility of the peso. This shall be preserved—and more. But the Bank shall also be the zealous medium of international financial co-operation in the great work of making this our land a land of plenty. God willing, we expect to see in our time the realization of every individual's dream that within our shores the enjoyment of a handsome portion of the material and cultural blessings will flow from an economy of abundance. This is our goal.

In an environment as generously endowed as ours, the essence of economic statesmanship consists in providing the stimuli that will encourage the citizenry to take full advantage of all the productive possibilities that lie in wait and, in so doing, generate a rising level of employment and an ever increasing flow of Social dividends. In this spirit, in this expectation, in this hope, I declare the Central Bank open today.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). Address of President Quirino at the ceremonies inaugurating the Central Bank of the Philippines. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(1), 174-176.

Message of President Quirino to U. S. President Harry S. Truman on the occasion of the latter's inauguration, January 20, 1949

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To U. S. President Harry S. Truman
On the occasion of the latter's inauguration**

[January 20, 1949]

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I feel happy in the privilege to extend to you and the great American people the warmest felicitations and best wishes of my country and my own on your inauguration day.

You carry the mandate of the age of the common man, and the success of your administration in advancing his welfare will undoubtedly be signal victories at large for democracy, freedom and peace in our troubled world.

God steady your heart and hand in this tremendous task and opportunity. I wish to reiterate the gratitude, friendship and loyalty of my people to the noble people of America, which has unselfishly given us the same opportunity.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S REPLY

I wish to express my sincere thanks for Your Excellency's kind message congratulating me upon my inauguration as president of the United States.

I deeply appreciate your good wishes which are heartily reciprocated.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). Message of President Quirino to U. S. President Harry S. Truman on the occasion of the latter's inauguration. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(1), 178.

Message of President Quirino in connection with the local observance of Parish Priest Week, read by Assistant Executive Secretary Nicanor Roxas, January 30, 1949

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
In connection with the local observance of Parish Priest Week, read by Assistant Executive Secretary Nicanor
Roxas**

[Delivered over station DZPJ, January 30, 1949]

I congratulate the Catholic Church for instituting the celebration of the Parish Priest Week. This is an excellent way to focus public attention on the creative potentialities of the position the parish priest occupies in the community.

The parish priest should be a vital factor in the moral reconstruction of our country. He is especially needed now to lift our population to a higher level of appreciation of the moral, and spiritual values essential to healthy community life.

How he can broaden the appeal of his character and personality to exercise the widest possible constructive influence is the challenging problem. I think this is largely dependent on the extent in which he makes his public ministry felt in the various areas of community life. This should mean constructive, intelligent contact not only in the purely religious, devotional sphere, but also in the fields, of education, labor, social welfare, business and government.

I do not propose that the parish priest should seek to dominate any of these areas. But he should equip himself to understand them and to contribute the enlightened point of view of his faith to make for increasing social peace and co-operation consistent with the eternal teachings of Christianity.

Jesus Christ during His ministry did not isolate Himself in the peace and security of the temple. He went out and mixed with the people, from the highest to the humblest, but especially the humblest because they contributed the bulk of the population. He saw them at work and at play, in prosperity as in pain, and participated in their activities to demonstrate the depth of His understanding and sympathy. This was the secret of His strength with them and with humanity at large since.

The parish priest of today has a great opportunity to help push the amelioration of our people to the extent that he is willing to give of his time and energy in understanding their social and economic problems and blazing the trail to greater social co-operation. His power to help morally reconstruct our nation today must stem from this increased social participation in the urgent responsibilities of modern community life.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Message of President Quirino in connection with the local observance of Parish Priest Week, read by Assistant Executive Secretary Nicanor Roxas. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 45(1)*, 181-182.

Message of President Quirino on Constitution Day, February 8, 1949
Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On Constitution Day

[Delivered on February 8, 1949]

Because our Constitution “embodies the ideals of liberty and democracy of the Filipino people; expresses their love of peace, order, education, and progress; establishes the necessary safeguards for individual rights; insures the formation of a citizenry conscious of its solemn responsibilities to the State; secures the conservation of the patrimony of the nation; provides for the defense of the national territory, and guarantees a regime of equality and justice under a government republican in form and in fact;” in 1936, President Quezon set February 8 of each year the Constitution Day of the Philippines.

Today, the 13th Constitution Day, I call upon all my countrymen to rededicate themselves to the ideals embodied in our Constitution and inculcate in the minds of every citizen a renewed sense of dignity and national consciousness.

All over the world today, there are gathering threats to constitutional liberties. And at home, there are indications of dangerous leanings towards disregard of our Constitutional precepts.

Let these tendencies make inroads into our system and the very foundation of our way of life will be badly shaken.

Every Filipino must steel his heart to the proper respect and defense of our Constitution, our Government and our laws.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). Message of President Quirino on Constitution Day. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(2), 657.

Address of President Quirino upon his conferment of the degree of Doctors of Laws, honoris causa, February 12, 1949

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Upon his conferment of the degree of Doctors of Laws, *honoris causa*, by the University**

[Delivered on February 12, 1949]

With solemn gratification I rise to bear witness with you to the initial realization of a great vision. President Quezon conceived the idea of a greater university on this spacious ground. He saw that the University of the Philippines must have room to grow. It could not grow bigger where it was first planted. It needed not only more ground but better surroundings. It needed an atmosphere of concentrated but not cloistered intellectuality. It needed an open field far removed from the noisy and sordid distractions of the workaday world—an open field where the imagination and thought could freely take wing, and the spirit could make direct peregrinations to broader realms of truth and wisdom.

Environment influences and determines the thoughts that guide man's actions. By continued contact with the things that man sees in his daily life he develops his faculties to adapt himself to his surroundings. If the space in which he lives is limited, his development is dwarfed as a tree is dwarfed in a garden pot. Similarly with man's thoughts and imagination—they are dwarfed by a limited horizon.

Today I read with great joy in the faces of the faculty and students the great psychological influence of the transfer of our University to this bigger, more beautiful site. I sense in your midst the spirit of great expectations, than which there can be no greater encouragement to deeper thinking, to higher aspiration. I see more life, more enthusiasm, more aggressiveness in both professor and student, and feel the irresistible contagion of their influence. Here indeed, taking shape, is the promise of a greater University.

I shall not tax your mind with pure abstractions. As a part of the workaday world, I cannot but bring you the compulsion of our country's practical problems.

Under the shadow of two world wars and all the bitter lesser conflicts before them, as well as the more precarious ones after them, the common man has emerged as the main object of solicitude and highest hope. This is only to be expected. The Lord Almighty has created so many of his kind. The happiness of the most privileged being can never be secure where the common man fails to find satisfaction for his basic grievance—the lack of the elementary necessities for a life of relative decency, dignity and growing fulfillment.

Heretofore, we have been nurturing the common man's loyalty to his country and government merely in terms of direct personal, material benefits. He has been pampered into believing that the nation's sole concern is his material welfare and upliftment. And for as long as these benefits continue to make him contented and happy, his loyalty to his government and country lasts. But the moment he is deprived of them, or suffers even only a diminution of his share of them, he becomes disillusioned and bitter towards his government and country. He has developed no sufficient moral leverage with which to keep his loyalty unshaken during his temporary disadvantage or suffering. His attachment to his country and government lacks the tensile strength of that loyalty which binds a child to his mother. A mother may be incapable of providing her child with all his needs because of limited means or the accidents of human life. But we would not expect that child to disown her, or turn his back to her. No matter what happens, he would continue to love her and serve her as he comes to a man's estate.

The heart and soul of the common man must be strengthened in his attachment to his land, to his fellow countrymen, to this government, as they constitute the sources of all the benefits that enable him to have and enjoy the good things of life.

Who knows but that this lack of attachment is due to the fact that the government's solicitude for the common man's welfare has not gone deep enough in his conscience to impress upon him that it is sincere and earnest. Thus it is necessary to inspire mutual trust as an essential human value in the attainment of this ideal relationship. The government is a corporate body politic, and, because it has life, it must also have a soul. This soul must find flowering in the common man.

I hold that to serve the interest of the common man is to serve the interest of all—including the highest, the richest, the most powerful and the best endowed.

Some alien system would place economic benefits within the reach of all, but it reserves to the state the absolute power to regiment or erase the individual to attain that objective. In the Philippines, in keeping with our democratic tradition, we seek to democratize economic benefits and leave to private individual and collective effort, under state guidance, the development of our economy that will sustain those benefits. We are faced with the choice between physical satisfaction along with moral abdication of the individual human personality on one side, and material betterment rooted in individual and common responsibility, dignity and liberty on the other. Our choice is clear.

Under our system, we hate no class. But we proscribe and prosecute any group, capitalist or labor, that utilizes its power to bully and exploit others. We respect property as the product of honest effort and a means to fuller living, but not as an instrument for oppressing others or for perpetuating that oppression. We want and help people to build their own homes, to own the lot on which to build them and the land they cultivate to sustain their needs. Such people contribute most and best to the success of an economic program of balanced national life.

We have the advantage of a patrimony rich in natural wealth. Our responsibility does not end upon announcing and feeling that we have practically unlimited natural resources. Merely, to speak of them is not to enjoy their use. Merely to invite others to develop them is not to benefit ourselves as a people. And we should not be too sure that they will forever remain our patrimony, or that their potential value will rise, let alone remain, the same with time.

We must remember the parable of the talents. It teaches us that what we do not use we cannot develop, that what we do not develop we cannot always keep. The world is becoming a closer and more crowded neighborhood. Democracy, or any other system, is no protection to those who sleep, like the Foolish Virgins, on their opportunities or their potentialities. It is never intended to be.

We must get busy; we must work, dig. All the expected gold under the ground cannot establish our credit for the capital we need unless we start digging ourselves and prove that we are determined to, and can produce. Credit is available in direct proportion only to our existing productive assets. Our democracy here should produce—as I know it is producing—citizens and institutions with demonstrable capacity for achievement in creating wealth and opportunity.

We must know how to take intelligent risks in developing our resources. The same daring and courage with which we assumed direction of our destiny when we secured our political freedom should be manifest in our economic program. We have always known that God helps those who help themselves. We have proved it in the political field. Nothing should bar us from doing it in the economic. This is a critical phase of our struggle for the betterment of the common man. We are right in it now, at the crux of it.

We should be inspired by the fact that we are the master of the instrument to social betterment because we are the instrument ourselves. This instrument is not dependent on the whim of any person or agency beyond our control. It depends solely on our vision, our spirit of resolution, our willingness to undertake responsibilities, our capacity to show our loyalty to our people and the heritage of common liberty that has developed through centuries of pain and aspiration.

This is an age of universal readjustment. Other peoples of the world today are revising and strengthening their way of life. They have to, to get along and survive in a community where it has become impossible to ignore the neighbors, impossible to wish away the potential threats to their respective established ways and the common welfare.

Each nation has its own pattern of reconstruction and rehabilitation. Each country has its own program of action inspired by an idealism peculiar to its history and the extent of the havoc wrought upon its people by the last international conflagrations.

We do not have to dissolve our personality as a nation in that world community. Indeed, by reason of our national experience, it requires that we develop and strengthen that personality more. For it is as a distinct personality that we can enrich our contribution to the life and well-being of that world community.

Our objective, therefore, is a happy citizen of this country that is equally a happy and helpful citizen of the world. He lives free and secure not in national isolation but in international dependence. He loyally supports his government and makes his individual voice, jointly with others, count for understanding and cooperation in the family of nations. His country and people have a way of life that fulfills their material and moral aspirations and contributes variety to the color and texture of a world pattern of cooperative living.

In an effort to cooperate in the establishment of a world order we must start with an acceptance of the diverse cultures of the world. We must understand their basic similarity of purpose and process. We must recognize their diversity and their different emphases as productive of the richness and color and variation that man has achieved in living and in human relations.

The world today is ruled by conflicting ideologies which have complicated all the more the work of universal readjustment. Our country happens to have been linked with experiences, with adversities and with glories which, at one time or another in our short history, we have shared with others. In fact we have been both beneficiaries and victims of world conflicts. I know of no country which has been more subject to changes in its national evolution because of these conflicts than the Philippines.

In planning and pursuing our salvation, we should keep within the context of the broader world tasks towards peace and ordered living. The stability of whatever social betterment we may achieve for ourselves as a people is conditioned by the measure of security and cooperation that prevail beyond our national borders. We should not be presumptuous to assume responsibility for the peace and happiness of the world. But we should see that the attainment of our own betterment at home helps clear the way to its increasing-achievement and just enjoyment in the broader community of the family of nations. We take the position that this shrinking planet must accept the urgency of mutually just accommodation among peoples as the only alternative to its reduction to a wasteland and common graveyard of all human hope and humanity itself.

We need total economic mobilization to raise the common man, and make him strong, self-reliant, patriotic. Total economic mobilization spells full employment, which in turn would mean peace, security and contentment. It is idle to talk of social amelioration without the material means for achieving it—the nation-wide release of our available energies for economic production. There can be no full employment without industries to create enough opportunities for work for the people. Social relief is an empty phrase without the goods created by work to satisfy immediate needs during disaster. There can be no peace where people are restless because of their inability to earn the wherewithal for feeding, clothing, sheltering and educating their children. The particular problem of peace is not definitely and permanently resolved by law-enforcement officers.

It is necessary that there is a continuous and steady development of the country in order to make available all the benefits that the common man as well as any other citizen of the land longs to enjoy. But this development cannot be realized without the common man's cooperation in the maintenance of peace which is the necessary prerequisite to any constructive and creative activity for the general welfare. And this constructive and creative activity—the fountain-source of every material benefit—can only be achieved on his own soil, with his own hands, with his own intellect, and with his own determination. He cannot depend on any other land or on any other people.

Total economic mobilization is not the exclusive prerogative and function of the government, or of the party in power, or of any social group. It is the concern of all— as it should be, in our kind of democracy. The government is expected to fill the bill of leadership, but it feels free to invite and to draw upon the talents available in public and in private life. It feels free to inspire and to enlist support from any and every section of the population. It does not

depend upon coercive power to secure public cooperation. It looks to the compulsion of an inner sense of individual obligation and national responsibility to muster all efforts in the promotion and prosecution of a common social program.

This program has a definite advantage in being developed in an atmosphere of democracy. We do not have to liquidate millions of our countrymen to see that it works, or to find out if it works. Our system is flexible enough to give everyone a chance to be heard, to permit revisions in our planning, as exigencies require. Our people are free to exert and coordinate their individual efforts under a government whose sanctions we periodically pass upon for correction and improvement.

The effort and the responsibility for the ample production of the good things of life intended by total economic mobilization, require that we must subordinate personal interests to the imperatives of the common welfare. This program presupposes individual self-reliance and social cooperation. Our intellectual elements, our business and industrial elements, our labor elements, must realize this compulsion. We have no other alternative to the new slavery in which freedom rests not even in those who dictate but who are prisoners no less of their own dialectic.

We should not mistake, however, the attainment of the material good things of life for the ultimate answer to the yearning for peace, for goodness and beauty, or for lasting individual and social happiness.

A confirmed materialist would invoke his mystic formula of thesis, antithesis and synthesis to produce the good man of his ideal society. In that society the state is presumed to have withered away because the good man no longer needs its dictation and protection, and because the environment has reached its complete efficiency and effectiveness in perfecting the good citizen. Individual freedom and happiness are sacrificed for efficiency.

We should have had some reassuring proof of this assumption by now from the new generation brought under its dictation. But we are not permitted to see it. An iron curtain has been set up and all we are allowed to glimpse and appreciate, on occasion, is continued hate, truculence and suspicion towards the unregenerate non-communist portion of humankind. We can see, by the filtering reports, that there is more, instead of less, government in the communist Promise Land. Its reconditioned citizens are denied by their state the joy of visiting and leavening freely and directly, the outside world with their sweetness and light. They leave this missionary task to naive fellow travelers, to mysterious underground agents of political subversion, to disciplined engineers of social division and chaos. The home-grown common comrade cannot be trusted to resist the alluring but evil appointment of a tottering, capitalist order.

It is a sad fact that the prosperous are no less immune to evil-doing than the poor and the hungry. Not infrequently, prosperity merely accentuates the appetite for conspiring against goodness, truth, or beauty. Man does not live by bread alone, and it is to be doubted that it can be any different, even in a materialistic society where spiritual matters are regarded as legitimate objects of derision, and where people, after all, are still human beings.

Social amelioration through total economic mobilization has, therefore, its limitations in the attainment of greater peace and contentment for our people. However important and urgent, abundant supply of the good things and mastery over the technique of their production, such as applied science assures us, are not the decisive element in our individual and national fulfillment.

It is not what more things can belong to us, but what high things we can belong to. It is not so much mastery over things as being mastered by supreme spiritual devotions. The great hours of our lives, rememberable to our dying day, are the moments when we were swept out of our individual selves by something that mastered us—the breathtaking sweep of great mountains, the magic of great music, the fascination of heroic and noble deeds, the inner consecration to a cause bigger than ourselves, our family, or even our restricted community. This is the soul and substance of our Christian heritage. In our efforts to develop our country to raise the common man, we must find firm anchorage in the fruits of our labors and in the spiritual loyalties that can deepen the meaning of our lives. We cherish the liberties that our kind of democracy provides in order to enjoy the privilege of being mastered by those loyalties.

Dr. Trinidad Parclo de Tavera once remarked: “*Los enemigos del pueblo Filipino son la nipa, la cana, el coco, y el Padre Nuestro.*” This was a searching explanation of the much alleged indolence and the resigned acceptance of the common man’s lot in his time. But times have changed. The Filipino has awakened from his lethargy. The nipa, the bamboo, the coconut, in the light of his initiation into modern science and technology, are now militant symbols of his determination to develop his country’s natural resources to secure national stability and happiness. *El Padre Nuestro* we still retain, but not as an enemy; for we need, indeed, not a return to blind belief, superstition and obscurantism, but an enlightened appreciation of the unsearchable riches of the spirit. Yes, we need more urgently than ever to rediscover God and the creative benedictions of His discipline. We should ever invoke a deeper love of country predicated upon actual toil and devotion.

To get the most of this privilege is to continually strengthen our faith in ourselves, our self-reliance, even as we look up to the hills whence cometh our help. We must eschew factional bickerings, captious carping at honest efforts of others to serve, facile approaches to problems of public welfare, the dissipation of social intelligence in magnifying trifles to salve the individual ego.

Undue preoccupation with the ego, with *amor propio*, can be a great obstruction to our national progress. We should not be afraid of losing face in a passing issue, of being disauthorized or repudiated, if our heart is in the right place. In our business, intellectual, and political life, we should rejoice in the success of others and welcome the discipline of gracious patience in awaiting our turn. Our success should be measured in terms of individuals we have helped, of institutions we have built and developed. We should welcome any chance to credit people for their good work, to acknowledge their fine constructive performance. We need charity and humility when we are right, but especially when we are tempted to dogmatize in direct proportion to our lack of information.

We cannot conceal our deficiency in facts and reason by heaping abuse on others who refuse to stoop to our manners. Our keenest rivalries should be, not for position and prerogatives, but for the best way of giving constructive service.

Our country deserves all the loyalty and devotion we can give. It is a beautiful country. It is a rich country. And it is a free country. It has been consecrated by our blood. It has developed a way of life allowing for continued improvement consistent with the needs of free men. It holds out the hope to millions beyond our shores courageously fighting for the advantages we enjoy. My fellow countrymen, we have every reason to be proud of our country and people—without falling for the illusion of becoming a chosen or master race. We have every reason to be happy in this country without coveting what is not our own.

As we reconstruct and build our new nation in harmony with world readjustment, we define our own mode of living. We must have our own pattern, drawing from the experiences and lessons of others,—a pattern suitable to our peculiar conditions. Thus we evolve a way of life inspired by democratic ideas and guided by tested social advantages. It is a new philosophy that has been distilled from the bitterness of the past. It is a flower that has grown from the ashes and ruins of yesterday. It is a spiritual force that has sprung from the severest test of our moral fiber. It is a weapon that has been forged on the anvil of adversity so that we should ever vanquish hunger and want. It is an inspiration that makes us march forward to conquer a new day for our posterity. It is a vision that has presented itself on the dawn of our redemption and resurrection. It is a new ideology that urges us on, shaking our lives and our very soul, to realize the dream of our dreams,—an enduring sovereign Republic.

Upon institutions such as this great university of our people, upon people such as the products of this institution, largely depend the conservation, the development, the fulfillment of our Philippine ideology into increasing reality, into a creative individual, national and world experience.

The measure of this university as our country’s most precious investment in the development of our best human resources will not be the noble structures that will rise in due course on these picturesque rolling uplands. It will not be in the amount of deposited and recited learning in its halls. It will not be in the lofty scholarship that can, on short notice, be mustered into parade for public inspection. The measure of this university has been, is, and will continue to be—the men and women that sally forth from this campus equipped for consecrated leadership, the happy

progressive communities in every corner of this land that benefit from their dedication and service, the growing quality of life and aspiration which is offered to every child born in this blessed country of ours as its heritage.

Far it be from us to expect the complete realization of our dream of the good life. We can only pray for the capacity to pursue with undiminished fervor a continually rising ideal for every new generation. This is life's most exciting privilege. This is our greatest adventure. Our Alma Mater should always be here to help us and our children become worthy of this high adventure. For this is the heart of social amelioration—for you and for me, for this generation and for our prosperity.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). Address of President Quirino upon his conferment of the degree of Doctors of Laws, honoris causa. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(2), 657-666.

Remarks of President Quirino on the opening of the 1949 Philippine National Red Cross Fund Campaign

**Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the opening of the 1949 Philippine National Red Cross Fund Campaign**

[Delivered over the radio, February 14, 1949]

MY COUNTRYMEN:

Two years ago today the Philippine National Red Cross acceded to the Geneva Convention. In this same palace of the people on that day, the late President Roxas signed the documents which made the Philippine National Red Cross technically and factually independent. By acceding to the Geneva Convention, we did another thing—we announced to the world that we subscribe to international agreements not only to humanize war but to bring instant relief to victims of every manner of national disaster.

On that core of Christian compassion for the human being rests the strength of the Red Cross throughout the world. Wherever there is suffering, there are people of goodwill—selfless, bighearted men and women—prepared and eager at all times to help the needy. It has been the historic task of the Red Cross to organize them and their resources so that its mission of mercy may always be performed with effective dispatch.

In recognition of the exemplary services which the Red Cross has rendered to our people, I issued last October my Administrative Order No. 71 specifically placing in the hands of this great organization the top direction of the government's relief activities in the event of natural disasters such as fires, floods and earthquakes. Under that administrative order the Red Cross has full authority to call upon all other agencies of the Government concerned with relief work, such as the Social Welfare Commission, the PRATRA and the Bureau of Health, to integrate their activities in order to insure co-ordination and maximum efficiency in any emergency.

Heretofore, the relief agencies in the Philippines, individually eager to render assistance to those in distress, rushed their assistance without previous understanding or preconceived plan. There was a sad lack of co-ordination of their related activities. Consequently, there was a great deal of overlapping of functions, duplication of effort and expense, and confusion in the execution of plans. The way our responsible authorities and people responded to the challenge of a major disaster last year like the eruption of Hibok Hibok volcano and the consequent mass evacuation and relief that had to be effected was typical of our people's ready sympathy in an emergency that promptly finds translation into action. All we need is more science and system in our action. The administrative order, I am happy to note, has brought about that system and effective co-ordination in emergency relief activities under Red Cross direction.

Effective results were evident in the relief work following the great fire which recently swept the town of Cotabato, rendering about five thousand persons homeless and causing damage estimated at ten million pesos. In that disaster, the Philippine National Red Cross for the first time operated with the authority vested in it by my administrative order. All accounts of the handling of the relief work in the Cotabato disaster have proved the wisdom of our selection of the Philippine National Red Cross for command responsibility in relief operations in the event of natural disasters.

My friends, experience has taught us that the ravages caused by destructive forces beyond our control can be lessened only by anticipating them and by adequately preparing to meet them well in advance. The Red Cross is best organized for this job, for it has the machinery, the trained staff and the relief goods and other materials necessary in meeting public calamities. That is why invariably we find the Red Cross always first at the scenes of disaster.

Time is of the essence in the kind of work that the Red Cross undertakes, and many lives have been saved, much suffering has been eased, as a result of the efficient and devoted service of this organization. Thus it has deservedly earned the appellation, "Humanity's Guardian."

It is, therefore, our duty—the duty of every man, woman and child in our country, regardless of race, nationality or creed—to support the Philippine National Red Cross so that it may adequately perform the great mission entrusted to it. Only as it commands the determined backing of the people can it be expected to discharge its responsibility to the community and the nation.

Tonight I wish to ask you all to contribute all you can to the funds of the Philippine National Red Cross. Give to the Red Cross and invest in our best national insurance against undue suffering public disaster and calamity. Help the Red Cross—help it all you can—for in so doing you help yourselves and you help humanity.

I have proclaimed the period from tomorrow, February 15, to March 15 as the time set aside for the 1949 fund drive of the Philippine National Red Cross. I declare that campaign open tonight with my initial subscription.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). The President's remarks over the radio opening the 1949 Philippine National Red Cross Fund Campaign, 7 p. m., February 14, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(2), 666-667.

**Extemporaneous Address of President Quirino before the Catholic group's demonstration Extemporaneous
Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the Catholic group's demonstration**

[Delivered at the Malacañan grounds, February 15, 1949]

PRESIDENT LIM, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I am very glad that you have given me this opportunity to express my feelings and define my stand not only as a true Catholic but also as a freedom-loving citizen and the highest representative of this Government, on this momentous question which is troubling the consciences of the Catholic world today.

I have had occasion to read the life history of Prince Primate Mindszenty: of his remarkable rise to the primacy within a period of three years from priesthood to a high position in the Church, I have read about his sturdy character and his unsmiling personality which denote seriousness of purpose and concentration of his intellectuality and high objectives in the Church. I have heard how brilliantly he fought against anything that was considered an enemy of the Church as well as for everything that had to be done to promote the interests and welfare of the common man, the poor man, the vilified and downtrodden in Hungary.

I have heard of his trial as shrouded with mystery and suspicion and the employment of all those things that are extraneous to court procedure and which made the people feel that he was outraged in court.

Certainly, a man with such courage, sturdy character, and dominant nature, could not have adopted a meek attitude at the moment when he could have exhibited all his qualities to become a martyr of the Church. For I am told that he aspired to be a martyr and not to be a mere suffering individual living in the streets of religious duty. The whole world therefore was astounded and everybody believed that there was an outrage because of this obstreperous decision to confine him to life imprisonment instead of sending him to the gallows and allowing him to die a martyr, thus robbing the Church of another martyr. He certainly deserves to be remembered by ah ages.

I want to join the whole world by expressing my condemnation of such a procedure not only as a true Catholic but as a private citizen and a lover of individual freedom. I want to express my condemnation as the head of the Government because I don't want that tragic trial of Cardinal Mindszenty repeated in our home country. This is a free country. This is a democratic country. There is religious freedom, absolute individual freedom, here. I am not bent on protecting any particular sect or court in this jurisdiction but I would condemn any attempt by any branch of this Government or any group among us to curtail religious freedom and to set the law only in an effort to enthrone in this country a new god—what they call the Red God. *[Applause.]*

My friends, this will give you an idea of the great task and responsibility before us. All around us today the same influence that sent this dutiful cardinal to life imprisonment is pervading not only our neighboring atmosphere. It is in our very midst. There are people who are aligned with those who believe in this procedure and if you do not help the Government, if you do not help your own countrymen to eradicate such an influence, God help us!

This is one of the greatest dangers not only to our religious belief and the principles of democracy but to our very life as a nation . . . The trial in Hungary may be repeated here with more serious tragedy to ourselves and to our posterity.

So, ladies and gentlemen, I am very happy that you have given me this opportunity to express myself thus, because it is necessary to announce to the whole world and to drive home into the heart and soul of the populace the great danger of that way of thought, of that practice, of that dogma, which are derogatory to our individual life as a nation and to our individual rights as private, freedom loving citizens of this country. *[Applause.]*

I congratulate you for approving this resolution. I already had a statement prepared on this matter, a statement that I was only finding an appropriate occasion to release. You now have given me that occasion and I voice our protest from the deepest recesses of our soul: The true Christian Filipino people are against this travesty of justice. *[Applause]*

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Extemporaneous address of President Quirino before the Catholic group's demonstration on the Malacañan grounds, at 5 p. m., February 15, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(2), 671-672.

Fourth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Fourth Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Released on February 15, 1949]

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

The other day on the occasion of the conferment upon me of the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by my Alma Mater, the University of the Philippines, I launched the new Philippine ideology. More than a mere theory, it is a program of action. I am determined to follow it for as long as I have the privilege of directing the affairs of the nation. I earnestly request every right-thinking and civic-minded Filipino to give it serious study, to adhere to it and to act upon it with intelligence, vigor and zeal.

As a nation we must have a positive ideology to guide our actions. The realization of this ideology as a goal will insure the welfare of the common man and the stability of our country. It is based on the material development of all our sources of wealth—our rich soil, our beautiful climate, our waterfalls, our deposits of oil, of gold, of iron, of chromite, of copper, of coal and innumerable other minerals; the wealth in fish and other aquatic products of our seas, lakes and rivers; our vast forests of the best kinds of wood in the world; our strategic position in world commerce.

We already have an established name in the world market for our copra, our sugar, our abaca and our tobacco. We have other agricultural products of potential world importance. These must all be developed, exploited and expanded to the limit in order that we may be able to provide the Government and our people with all the necessities for our sustenance and continued existence as a people.

We need money to loan to our farmers; to buy food, clothing and medicine for the needy and sick people; to provide school for the children. We need to create industries in order to give work for the unemployed. We need to provide the thousand and one conveniences of a more decent life for the common man, in order to provide all these we need to produce. Thus we have to exploit all our natural resources and advance our domestic and foreign trade. This is what I meant by total economic mobilization as the foundation of our new way of life.

I said then, and I repeat it now that “to serve the interest of the common man is to serve the interest of all—including the highest, the richest, the most powerful and the best endowed.”

I did not conceive this ideology all by myself as a sudden inspiration from the blue. It was not the exclusive product of my thought and imagination and the promptings of my heart. It was developed from thoughts that had found lasting expression in the conduct and actions of our own countrymen in the past and under different trying circumstances. I picked up the loose threads of idealism that had sparked the lives and sacrifices of our leaders of thought, of our heroes, of our martyrs who gave their lives at home and abroad to win our freedom and elevate our race.

To this ideology I have contributed my observations and experiences in the darkest hour of our history, compelled by a vision of the dawn of a greater day after the most terrifying and horrifying ordeals of the last war in our country. I knitted all these together with the longings and experienced wisdom of our countrymen, especially the under-privileged who had suffered most during the time of our subjugation, struggle and humiliation.

As a people and as a nation, we must have by now a definite, concrete and unified pattern of living; we must have a battlecry, as it were, in our new struggle for a better, more satisfying, and more enduring national life. This need prompted me to launch the new Philippine ideology.

But all the efforts that we exert, no matter how earnest and sublime, cannot find fulfillment unless there is a corresponding appreciation of our situation, unless there is a will to carry it through on the part of all of us. Our bitter lessons of the past must teach us to stand together and shoulder the accumulated burden of generations. This we must do if we are to lighten the load of our children to give them a chance adequately to assume the added responsibilities of their time. It is a mission that everyone of us must unselfishly, unassumingly and self-effacingly join and accomplish in order to deserve the name of father of our children.

It is not, I realize, a simple matter to follow this line of thought and action without awakening jealousy or suspicion among our compeers. At one time or another in our life-long struggle as a people, they have seen the vision too. But they are apt to be confused or discouraged by others who think they have found a better way without telling us what it is.

This moment in our history requires that there be a determined co-operation in fulfilling a national program of action. At least, in a democratic country such as ours, we must pursue a definite line of official conduct and national action, we must give those who have conceived it a chance to carry it out with proper popular implementation. Time will provide opportunities for the trial of others should this one fail. But certainly there must be one definite line of conduct, a program of action, if we are to develop and insure our orderly life as a nation.

After all, I am not advocating an entirely new line of conduct. I am only launching a system of coordinated national action suggested by the dispersed beliefs and conviction that have inspired the manner of living of our countrymen in recent years. It is an organized Filipino mode of living that has actually entrenched itself in our national soul in answer to the continuous threats to our individual and collective existence as a people.

The atmosphere in which this new ideology has been launched, although propitious, may appear suspicious. At least to some calculating political minds, nothing worthy and noble in this ideology may be seen through, their electoral eye during this election year. At this juncture may I take notice of the political disease that is spreading like an epidemic from Jolo to Batanes. It is afflicting the proudest as well as the poorest who have not been immunized from the contagion of its vicious influence. Every little incident or accident or experience is exploited for whatever opportune interpretation may be derived to promote partisan political designs. Often it is magnified beyond decent bounds to serve selfish political ends.

I rely on the maturity of judgment of our citizenry. But I do believe that when our national firmament is beclouded, and prejudice and suspicion hang over our immediate horizon, we must identify and try to banish the active menace to the success of our sincere endeavors to serve the welfare and future of our country. We must watch out against being unwittingly swept by the prevailing current of prejudice. We should guard against extravagant, reckless adventures inspired by trivial emotions or induced by passing moral and intellectual confusion. Our honest thinking people should know how to arrive at an adequate answer in the face of a challenging situation.

My fellow countrymen, I beseech you to summon all that is big and noble in you, all that is earnest, all that is patriotic, all that is sincere, to help set a pattern of sanity and constructive action in these days of bitterness and political bewilderment. I am confident that we can prove again and again the maturity of judgment which we are known to have developed after centuries of struggle for national self-determination.

We must establish in our minds that there is no magic to expect in the matter of realizing our new way of life. There is no royal road to national stability and self-respect. We have to work together.

The failure of any government is not the failure of a few, but of all. This government is ours. We cannot treat it as an impersonal thing, as something merely to sneer at in the hands of an adversary. We have to devote more time to discover what is right for our Government, as for our country and people, and use it as the basis of our efforts.

We must be more friendly to freedom and democracy, not by thinking that age-old problems can be resolved by a witticism, but by rolling up our sleeves, in co-operation with our neighbors, with a definite purpose and a will, to grow two blades where only one or nothing grew before. If we consider any totalitarianism as inimical to our

ideology of self-reliance, national loyalty and world co-operation, we must suspect and resist these impatient, pontifical schools of so-called progressive thought which would establish the millennium with one wave of the hand.

There is no substitute for goodwill, loyalty, co-operation and work in the solution of our problems and the fulfillment of our national objectives. When we ask our duly constituted Government what it is doing in this direction, let us ask ourselves individually and collectively what we are doing ourselves. An honest answer to this question will clear a lot of the rubbish obstructing our common way to individual and social happiness. It will also help us to appreciate the new way of life that I have just submitted to my countrymen as the basis for estimating the tasks and contributions of this Administration in advancing the common welfare.

I shall in due time, on other occasions, elaborate on the implementation of our program of national action. I wish to acknowledge here my appreciation of the communications of private fellow citizens in different parts of the country who take time to endorse the position I have been taking in the country's interest regardless of purely political consequences. I am tremendously encouraged. It would not be fair to myself and to our people to deny my pleasure in the inspiration they have been giving me.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Fourth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino, 7 p. m., February 15, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(2), 668-671.

Remarks of President Quirino at the Sixth Conference of the 81st District of Rotary International

**Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Sixth Conference of the 81st District of Rotary International**

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, March 4, 1949]

A VERY good friend of our people, speaking undoubtedly for other equally sincere friends in this country, has had occasion to accuse me of being an incorrigible optimist. I was quite truly nattered even by a comparison with President Truman who, for his Inaugural message, is dubbed realistic while I, because of my last state of the nation address to Congress, am regarded as a dangerous romantic. "Is it wise," it is asked, "for the President to use such rose-tinted glasses that he misses all the deep shadows that are cast over the land?"

I should like to please these friends, but I wonder if they would rather that I say the country was going to be ruined because of import control even if all I have learned all along, from Rotarians and Horatio Alger, compels me to look ahead and prepare to climb the highest mountain. That the country was doomed on that account is possibly the one thing I am determined not to say or to admit. I do not propose to be a crape-hanger. I have always felt that, addressing the elected representatives of our people at a time demanding constructive action does not mean presiding at a wake or leading a funeral, but rallying our people to have the vision and courage to tackle the tasks ahead.

Anyone aware of the vivid marks of devastation, material and spiritual, in our midst after four years of the cruelest war known to man and after three years of effort at recovery, must be callow and insensitive, indeed, not to be impressed by their reality without having to proclaim the fact officially. Anyone who runs may read, in this particular situation, and my duty is no to encourage the undertaker but to follow the Rotary spirit of enlightened hope and purposeful action.

Many of the problems of this country today are not peculiar to us. And the problems we have inherited from before the war are problems that have engaged the best minds of America and other lands and I am not sure that they have been or will be resolved by one grand gesture. I am hopeful, nevertheless, as I will always be, that we shall find our way to higher levels of achievement if Rotarians will permit us to hope and to plan for ourselves without requiring us to go through the motions of pious wringing of the hands and being sorry for our country.

I can't help suspecting what is on your minds today as Rotarians who believe in free enterprise and order and perhaps democracy. I imagine that because of certain recent developments in the upper chamber of our Congress, you may be wondering what is going to happen to the country, to the Liberal Party, or even to me. I am a minor detail, the Liberal Party is another detail, but the country is the one big detail that will know how to take care of itself, and I am confident that it is capable of surprising our sourest seers of disaster.

There, again, you may say, goes the incurable optimist. How can I help it? If the Japanese occupation and the cost of liberation did not cure me, what could and can?

Call me weak, call me colorless. Call me vain, call me a dictator. But please don't give me an assignment as a professional mourner, a crape-hanger, or a mortician for our Republic. That, I positively refuse to be. That, I trust no one succeeding me will consent to be, or will be compelled to be.

I think back to the days when America was a vast virgin continent. I think of the countless Americans, men, women, children, who went out into the wilderness to break the ground that later was to give rise to great communities, heart centers of culture and civilization efficient nurseries for the development of free institutions and free men. I do not recall that these hardy pioneers hesitated to meet the challenge of a sprawling, untamed continent because there were

the Indians, because there were evil and greedy men even among themselves, or because the climate could be mighty inconvenient to people habituated to the creature comforts of settled communities of the old world.

Those pioneers knew what they wanted. The going was rugged, but the more rugged it was, the more determined they were to conquer. The exigencies of frontier life shaped up their morality; the frontier was harsh and sowed their manners. The stern surroundings had their peculiar challenge and man, as American, answered the challenge with a success that has not ceased to astonish the world.

When I think of those courageous pioneers that asked nothing of their environment but the opportunity freely to determine their life and destiny with what meager equipment they had, I find considerable difficulty in reconciling their spirit with what is being passed on around as the real attitude of American investment capital today with respect to the Philippines—its reported worry about our so-called nationalism, our protective laws, our dissidents. American capital is represented as shy because conditions here are believed to be not safe, not attractive, not easy, not secure to guarantee the amplest return. It is reported to be distrustful even of our democracy.

I like to believe that this is not the general American sentiment. I like to believe that American capital, as a potent instrument of industrial progress for the advancement of democratic liberties and social amelioration where ever it has taken root, is still true to the spirit of Americanism which makes America the leader of the world today. I like to believe that being morally strong by tradition and inheritance, it does not have to rely solely on special privileges for itself, that it is not easily intimidated into retreat by mere challenges to its genius for adjustment in a new setting to justify its leadership of free nations.

I like to believe that it is still enterprising, courageous, conscious of its broadened role of bringing not only the material blessings of civilization to economically backward lands, but the vital support needed there to develop and strengthen political and social institutions capable of containing the tide of a new and no less brutal totalitarianism. I can't conceive of America itself being so vitiated by its material prestige and prosperity as to appear willing to yield the magnificent opportunity for world leadership by default unless it is assured the widest freedom to operate comparable to that enjoyed when Indians, among other problems, disputed its determination to develop the wilderness, or unless it is given dominion of the economic life of undeveloped countries on its own terms.

For this is quite impractical now under the prevailing temper of the times. There are more people in this world today and they want freedom, too, and self-respect. They want to be respected common allies for liberty and democracy, failing to become which may make it problematical for America itself to maintain and keep its prized way of life indefinitely.

American enterprise which survived and conquered the problem of Indians and the vastness and violence of nature is puzzled and worried, according to reports, by our nationalization laws. Indians, along with other dangers of the frontier, are history, but planning and nationalization are a dynamic political and social reality spelling resistance to unregulated free enterprise and possibly keeping its rewards within humane and civilized sanctions. It has sometimes been said that American business could employ its enterprise in any field for the fun of it. The fact that the pile of gold was made is incidental. Now I would not want to think that this spirit of enterprise is losing its zest for our friends because all it could concentrate upon is the point whether profits are possible in terms, alone and only, of dollars and cents and naked coercive political power.

Another friend of our people, a liberal at that, made a flying visit to SCAP, took a side glance at the Philippines en route, and then went home to report how worried are many American friends here, most of them undoubtedly good and honest Rotarians, and how dark is the prospect of new capital now because we are asking our people to concentrate first on basic needs and not to put all their money in fancy automobiles, and because we want our own people to have a proportionate share in the enjoyment of our economic opportunities. He worries along with them too about our government corporations.

We are led to infer that the best way to plan for our future is not to plan at all. We are reminded of what old folks used to say: What was good enough for our grandfathers should be good enough for us, too. This seems contrary to all that we know of the progressive spirit of good old America. The good old America of our copybooks was not

afraid of new things just because they were new. The phenomenal progress of American business was not due to bugbears largely self-created. The ascendancy of the American business man as practical arbiter of American life and culture was not due to worry and fear about new things. Is it too much to ask that American capital should display as much faith and courage as of old in helping smaller peoples striving for the larger life of equal opportunity, dignity and freedom?

I have called for total economic mobilization to give a substantial basis to our social amelioration program. We are proceeding ahead in spite of the much publicized differences in the Senate, and in spite of the dubious impression that politics takes precedence ahead of cockfighting as the national pastime. I have expressed the faith that we are maturing politically, that the gravity of any political upheaval and reorientation, made so much of by the press, will not prevent the sun from rising tomorrow, or distract us from our economic mobilization and social amelioration program. Through the height of the so-called Senate crisis, we have been busy determining allocations from our ₱200 million from the Central Bank for the rehabilitation of our industries such as tobacco, sugar, copra, abaca and for expanded production of such a basic national need as rice. To date ₱115 million is already allocated for the purpose and we have until the end of 1951 to make use of the balance in connection with our development program.

While we would appreciate the increased flow of alien capital here to facilitate our economic progress and while some people seem to enjoy playing politics, we are not merely sitting and waiting for that capital to materialize.

We are not going to wait forever for native capital, either to make up its mind. Our government is decided on its program of action, the needs of our people are urgent and how much nationalization we shall have in our industries will depend on how adequately foreign and domestic capital respond to the opportunities our people through their duly constituted representatives are prepared to offer. It is to be observed that the systematic nationalization going on in England has not discouraged the billions of dollars that America is pouring in there.

It would be discouraging to imagine that the reluctance of American capital to come here after we have amended our Constitution to give it special accommodation is due to lack of faith in our country and people, to lack of faith in the democratic institutions that America has helped to build here, to lack of faith in Filipino loyalty to the ideals that brought back General MacArthur's liberating forces to the Philippines.

It would be well to remember at this point President Roosevelt's warning against being afraid of fear itself. The fear that a stalwart organ of American big business would generate through naïve or deliberate distortions of fact and perspective contradicts and misrepresents the courage and confidence with which American youth freely crimsoned our beaches and plains and hills with their blood to consecrate the vitalization of democracy here. That fear contradicts and underrates the courage and confidence with which American pioneers battled with the tremendous physical and natural problems of settling a continent. It contradicts and weakens America's present determination to meet the tremendous threat of hostile ideologies with all the resources at its command.

In refusing to believe that the American spirit has become soft, timid, afraid of new conditions, new problems and new responsibility, I stand guilty to the charge of being a romantic partial to the use of rose-tinted glasses. In affirming our people's capacity to withstand the strains and stresses of a firmly implanted democratic system and to act accordingly for our country's protection and welfare in the economic vacuum being created by the fear of capital alien or domestic, I stand the unregenerate optimist. I believe in honest work under the impulse of enlightened self-interest, in honest cooperation with other enlightened self-interests willing to contribute to the common welfare. And if others are afraid to help and cooperate, then we shall not be wanting in faith and determination to go on our own. We have a rich and beautiful country and perhaps there are any number of other neighbors if the worse comes to the worst.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Remarks of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, at the Sixth Conference of the 81st District of Rotary International, at the Manila Hotel, March 4, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(3), 1200-1204.

Message of President Quirino at the Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Women's University, March 22, 1949

Address of President Elpidio Quirino, at the Commencement Exercises of the Philippine Women's University, March 22, 1949:

I RETURN to this campus to be your commencement speaker for the second time after two decades. Although the atmosphere, despite the marks of devastation, has not changed, for it remains as exhilarating and ennobling as ever, the spirit has become more exalted.

I congratulate the graduates of this great university for women, one of the few of its kind in the world today. Your Alma Mater has a distinct tradition of service. The spirit of loyalty of one of its great builders, Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos, pervades its halls and continues to be the inspiration of our people. If this institution is to endure as a pillar of strength to our Republic, and if your life has to have a meaning to your community and country, it is because as an essential complement of your high academic preparation this spirit is with you and will ever move you to creative and unselfish service to our people.

I feel I can assume that you now have the basic equipment in idealism and specific skill to do your stint of service in the workaday world—as mothers, as equal partners of man, and as full-fledged citizens of a democracy. I, therefore, propose to discuss with you the practical aspects of your national responsibility in the light of the opportunities and exigencies of our time.

Unlike most countries of the world today which have withstood the test of time, the background of our country's historical development is composite and unique. We did not establish this nation on a mere plain, erecting our national edifice in the center, as it were, with the simplicity and beauty of modern architecture. Our country is rugged and scattered, as if casually thrown by our Creator into this corner of the Pacific. Out of the mists of the past we emerged as a people eager to construct that edifice, without organization or a preconceived plan. We looked at each other and began to recognize our common origin. Gradually we became conscious that these islands are ours. We decided to weld ourselves into one for our common benefit and protection. Then our problems became readily apparent and complicated.

There was confusion among ourselves, born out of primitive rivalries and lack of intelligent perspective. There was also fear, since the early days of conquest, of annihilation by adventurous designing people, that in succession invaded our shores and battered down our defenses with vandalistic fury and greed.

While readying ourselves for national unification, we were intermittently disturbed by wars with greater powers that tested our strength and consistency as a nation. Our periodic subjugation by these varied hordes intruded upon our customs, our morals, and our mode of life. Thus as a people we now present a kaleidoscopic type of civilization culture and progress, but conditioned to weather storms that have lashed our country from all directions. We have developed sturdiness in our racial fiber through our long struggles for nationhood. We have evolved an ideal in the pursuit of which we have become better prepared to survive the grueling tests to which a modern nation is subjected.

In the process of our national evolution, we have produced different types of men that successfully responded to the exigencies of the hour. Leaders of various types have guided and sustained this country in their respective epochs. Religious leaders, intellectual leaders, revolutionary leaders, political leaders, economic leaders, world leaders, we have been able to produce to our credit.

But in our long and successful struggle for nationhood and sovereignty, we have not as yet been able to take advantage of, and assert and effectively utilize as an organized force, the leadership of our women population. Of course, in all the stages of our national development they have greatly assisted and actually led, as they are leading, in the realization of many of our national objectives. But as a distinct force factor and controlling influence not only to stimulate our progress but actually to help direct the course of the country in a degree commensurate with her numerical strength and quality of vision and patriotism, the Filipino woman is yet to demonstrate her full power in the affairs of the nation.

By reason of our recent background of struggle for political independence, the type of leadership easily recognized and accepted here is political leadership. This is invariably associated with special skill in haranguing crowds, some abusing it to marshal the forces of the country for political self-aggrandizement, employing the ruthless exercise of coercive power, or establishing authority by threats—regimented leadership. These who indulge in this kind of leadership operate on the basis of the leader-principle in which the people are considered as dumb cattle dependent on the crack of a whip. Indeed, under this practice the people are taught to accept whatever the leader lays down as the law. The people are given little or no allowance for capacity to do some thinking. In fact, they are not trusted to think at all. The leader is supposed to do all that and let it be known through his newspapers, or whatever media of propaganda he commands. He is the boss. This principle stems from the myth of the superman and from illusions among its believers that a selected few through some mystic alchemy, have been endowed with a monopoly of wisdom, vision and patriotism.

You may ask what chance has a woman aspiring to leadership under conditions that exist today in our country. She has a chance, but she must have a different approach. She must start on the premise that she believes in democracy. Then she must act accordingly, showing by deed that she believes in and trusts the common man to do some thinking for himself outside of his favorite editorial writer, political mentor or stand-by philosopher.

Bossism is not real leadership. It is a corruption of leadership inherited from a primitive era governed by the cynical theory that a fool is born every minute. The best that can be said for bossism is that it is the evil democratic counterpart of the leader-principle fully exploited in police states—not much unlike our status during the occupation. Bossism is the leader-principle minus its high-sounding metaphysics and its rationalized mass brutalities. Those who speak loftily for constitutional dictatorship are not so far removed from the love of bossism, just as you cannot disguise your love of the bottle by being solemn on the glory of the wine in the mystery of the Holy Mass. In effect, while they seem to acknowledge the significance of social and economic forces, they expect the qualities of a society to be determined by the system of power embodied in the state and those who exercise it.

If we are loyal to our democracy we must assess our leadership in terms other than those of bossism, politics, or constitutional dictatorship. We must believe in the common man's right and capacity to think and must act on the wisdom of his better instincts in constructive cooperation with his fellows.

When the people, often inarticulate, lead a life of constructive effort within the law and in accordance with an honest concept of sound citizenship, they do not need anyone to whip them into line. With their needs and demands properly ascertained, their will becomes clear. It is a sound government that recognizes it and accepts its authority. Wherefore, there is no need of the boss who thinks he must impose his will on the people or coerce them to his pleasure with whatever means he has at hand. Under the circumstances, what would be needed is a respected person to hold the baton to keep the proper tempo in the progress of the nation.

And when the people, observant of the law, lead a life of peace, when they work conscientiously as producers and not merely as consumers, and where, understanding their rights and responsibilities, they are ready to defend their country and people with loyalty they fill the bill of sound citizenship on which authentic leadership in a democracy is based. To reach this stage of enlightened citizenry there is of course need of education or proper indoctrination by persuasion, and example, but not by imposition or regimentation.

There can be no authentic, efficient leadership if the people are not enlightened and inspired to follow. They will not be followers of anyone just because he wants to be the boss. On the other hand, without his wishing or knowing it, they will follow him if they know that he is doing or expressing just the things that they feel and want, and if they believe earnestly in his wisdom, integrity and high motives. He thus becomes their leader.

A real democracy is where the people create the leaders. And this is so because the people inspire and choose the leader who loyally interprets their desires and aspirations and believe him to have the integrity and creative insight to carry out the popular will. And this is our democracy.

Thus the leadership called for in our young democratic Republic requires direct contact with, and trust in the people; inspires respect and obedience by example; maintains the country's dignity without officious obtrusiveness. Moral

authority and leadership is strong when it reaches the heart and soul of the followers by reason of high motive and honest example. We do not have to conjure a Hitler, a Mussolini, or a Tojo from the grave for that purpose.

Our country is not at war. There is no need of trumpets to blare commands. There is no imperative for loud slogans, for gratuitous gesticulations. In the present stage of our political and material development, moral leadership must be coupled with economic statesmanship. A life of substance is basic to a stable, contented and peaceful citizenry. This can only be secured by constructive and productive direction. We should be less concerned with fighting for the seat of power than with providing the inspiration and leadership in the common effort to develop our country. Those who aspire to political leadership—our women included—should, therefore, devote more time to economics. The reason for national leadership should be the lasting and fundamental welfare of our people, and not mere proficiency in the routine tricks of the political game. The idea that the common people are gulls, useful pawns in the political game to secure the exercise of pivotal power, belongs to the past.

Our people will follow goodwill, love and honest endeavor to inspire confidence. They are neither sheep nor coolies. A government run on the principle of the capataz is definitely outmoded in our midst. A capataz is merely another boss. Especially if he is under a foreign master, he is no leader but a mere instrument of that master. He is a puppet, pure and simple.

We have learned to take care of ourselves. We do not have to be ordered to do what we should. All we need is to organize ourselves under a positive and concrete program of action. We do not need to quarrel as to who is going to lead. Our concern should be a life of order and peace, work and production. Whoever enjoys the good will, confidence and respect of the people, whoever can set the moral example, whoever has demonstrated by achievement and by his vision his sincere interest and real concern for the country's well-being, meets the test of leadership in this epoch that belongs to the people.

On a previous occasion I said that to serve the interest of the common man is to serve the interest of all, including the highest and best. I would not want you to confuse the common man with the common tao. The common tao is a fanciful invention of feudal-minded writers and their patrons; he is supposed to be poor, oppressed, and ignorant. The common man, on the other hand, is a democratic concept. Nothing is common about him except his aspiration to better his lot under conditions of freedom, dignity and equal opportunity. And I say that under our Republic we must do everything to give the common man the chance to improve his condition and fulfill his potentialities.

The program of social amelioration is not merely a matter of handouts, of doling out rice, clothing or medicine. It includes creating the climate for self-confidence, for initiative, for self-help. It aims to reach and raise every man whatever the degree of his intelligence, education, status, or lack of them.

When I affirm my faith that this is the age of the common man, I do not visualize an absolute leveling of conditions. I think simply of the unused reserves of talent of the totality of our people which we must tap and release for constructive ends so that even the humblest citizen may realize the dignity of this estate. It is being short-sighted, unintelligent, uneconomic to neglect the mass of a nation's human material because they do not have the social status associated with the conspicuous waste of the so-called upper classes.

The graduates of this university represent perhaps only a modest proportion as yet of our population enjoying the higher privileges of culture and economic competence. For this reason, you have a great opportunity to exercise leadership in your respective communities. You have a good chance to so think and live creatively that the enjoyment of your special opportunities may increasingly be shared among the people.

I am proud not only to have participated in the extension of suffrage to our women in the Constitutional Convention and in the legislative chambers but to have directly initiated unequivocal participation of our women in the high councils of state. Thus, for the first time in the civil administration of this country, I placed one of our distinguished career women in the public service, Mrs. Asuncion Perez, in my Cabinet; she is charged with the prosecution of the social amelioration program of this government as part of the enlarged scope of our welfare service. I hope Dr. Geronima Pecson, our only woman senator so far, will not begrudge me the claim that I have greatly prompted her to invade the senate halls.

I have come to this great institution of learning to impart my great belief and confidence in the women of our country. By the eloquent evidence of their competence demonstrated in the various phases of our civil administration, they can justly assert their usefulness and influence in the direction of our country's destiny.

The leadership that they are expected to contribute in our national growth and development is not the "bossism" that we usually observe in the workaday world. It is something more elevating and subtle, and its effect will be more lasting and noble upon the character of our people. It must be something peculiar to their sex and the exigencies of the times. It must be relevant to our complex problems in this stage of our national development. Conscious of the necessity of their sharing with the men population the great responsibility of nation-building, I am positive that they will find their due place in the overall program of national planning and reconstruction.

Members of the graduating classes, there is a wide range of human activity before you. In education, social welfare, the home arts, the girl scouting movement, public recreation, community culture, family industries, in national and international affairs, the nation beckons you to action. Traditionally, woman is the weakness of man. At this hour, you are man's potential strength, the nation's new source of power. Hail to the women of this country!

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Radio Address of President Quirino on the opening day of the National Language Week celebrations
[Filipino]**

**Talumpati sa Radyo
ng
Kagalang-galang Elpidio Quirino
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Sa pagbubukas ng unang araw ng selebrasyon ng National Language Week**

[Ipinahayag sa Filipino, ika 27 ng Marso, 1949]

MGA KABABAYANG NAKIKINIG SA RADYO:

NGAYON, ika 27 ng Marso, nagsisimula ang Linggo ng Wikang Pambansa. Taunton, Simula sa ganitong araw at hanggang ika-2 ng Abril, ang Linggo ng Wika ay idinaraos, bilang pagsunod sa Pamahayag 35 ng Pangulong Osmeña na inilagda noong ika 23 ng Marso ng Taong 1946. Ang layunin sa pagdaraos ng Linggo ng Wika ay upang mapasigla ang pagpapaunlad at pagpapalaganap ng Wikang Pambansa, na ayon sa ating Konstitusiyon ay kailangang paunlarin at gamitin ng lahat ng mga Pilipino.

Buhat sa Pangulong Quezon, na siyang kinikilalang Ama ng Wikang Pambansa, ang lahat ng mga humaliling Pangulo ng Pilipinas ay nagpahalaga sa Wikang Pambansa at ito'y itinuring na siyang pinakamatibay na buklod ng ating lahi. Ako ay hindi magpapahuli sa mga naunang Pangulo ng Pilipinas, kaya't sa panahong ito ng aking pangasiwaan ay hindi ako gagawa ng anumang hakbang na paurong ukol sa Wikang Pambansa, kundi bagkus ihahandog ko ang lahat ng tulong na kinakailangan, upang ang pangarap ng mabunying Pangulong Quezon na makitang ang ating bansa ay nagkakaisa, hindi lamang sa mga mithi at damdamin, kundi pati sa wika, ay makita natin agad na isang magandang katotohanan.

Ang Wikang Pambansa ay wikang pampamahalaan o opisyal, Simula pa noong ika-4 ng Hulyo ng taong 1946. Tayo ay may isang upisina o kawanihan na siyang nagmamalasakit sa ikauunlad ng sariling wika, ito'y ang Surian ng Wikang Pambansa. Ang mga paaralan, maging pambayan o pansarilinan man, sa pamamagitan ng pagtuturo ng Wikang Pambansa mula sa mabababang paaralan at hanggang sa mga Kolehiyo at Universidad, ay nakagagawa ng lalong mabisang pagpapalaganap ng wika sa lahat ng sulok ng Pilipinas. Ang mga sine at radyo, ang mga pahayagan at babasahing pambayan, ay nakararating hang-gang sa malalayong pook atinihahatid sa mga mamamayan doon ang mga kasaysayan, balita at panoorin sa wikang pambansa. Ang lahat nang ito ay isang tiyak na palatandaan na di malalaon at ang Wikang Pambansa ng Pilipinas ay magagamit ng lahat, sa pakikipag-unawaan sa kapwa, sa pakikitungo sa pamahalaan, sa pag-aaral at pagpapatalino, sa pakikipagkasundo at pangangalakal, at sa lahat ng pagkakataon, kailangan nating patunayan na tayo'y may isang lahi, may isang wika, at may isang bayan.

Si Rizal ang maysabi na ang wika ay siyang kaluluwa ng bayan. At sapagka't ang kaluluwa ng bayan ay hindi maaaring mamatay, sa Linggong ito ng Wika ay gawin nating sawikain ang ganito: *Sumulat at Magsalita sa Wikang Pambansa*.

Maraming salamat po.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). President Quirino's radio address in the national language, delivered on the occasion of the opening day of the National Language Week celebrations on March 27, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(3), 1214-1215.

Radio Address of President Quirino during the National Language Week, March 29, 1949

**Radio Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
During the National Language Week**

[Delivered on March 29, 1949]

WRITE AND SPEAK IN NATIONAL LANGUAGE

In the following radio address in Tagalog delivered on March 29, 1949, the beginning of National Language Week, President Elpidio Quirino pledged that he would not make any backward step regarding the propagation of the National Language but that he would do everything he could to bring about the realization of President Quezon's dream of making our country united not only in aspirations and feelings but also in language.

MGA KABABAYANG NAKIKINIG SA RADYO:

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Si Rizal ang maysabi na ang wika ay siyang kaluluwa ng bayan. At sapagka't ang kaluluwa ng bayan ay hindi maaaring mamatay, sa Linggong ito ng Wika ay gawin nating salawikain ang ganito: *Sumulat at Magsalita sa Wikang Pambansa.*

Maraming salamat po.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino on Labor Day

Extemporaneous Speech of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines On Labor Day

[Released on May 1, 1949]

THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR UNION

President Quirino called on all the people of the Philippines to rally behind the government's total economic mobilization program which he described as "the greatest efforts of our time" to make the Philippines strong and enduring, in an extemporaneous Labor Day speech delivered on May 1, 1949.

Warning against the danger of playing into the hands of subversive elements, the President declared:

"I warn you, my friends, anybody making political capital out of the greatest disgrace that ever fell on the nation, is a disgrace to the nation. They only seek to blemish and blacken the name of the new republic which now enjoys the admiration, prestige, and even love of our neighbors."

The President opened his address by saying he had wanted to suspend his address out of respect to the memory of Mrs. Quezon, but that on second thought he decided this was a good time not only as a day of dedication to Labor "but as a dedication to the memory of Mrs. Quezon and President Quezon as well, the two greatest champions of the masses in our time."

Excerpts from the important portions of the speech follow:

THERE IS really no logic in keeping with the human conscience, for an employer to take advantage of the strength, the vitality, the earnestness, and the loyalty of a man engaged in production activities if, when this individual becomes either physically broken or becomes ill or is incapacitated, the employer neglects his welfare.

Under such circumstances it is necessary for the government to step in to protect such an individual and one of the purposes of the bill prepared by the Social Security Study Commission is to provide social security for the man under such circumstances in order that he may receive the benefits from those he had helped enrich in his prime of life or while he had the strength and capacity to work.

Other measures as prepared by the Social Security Study Commission have to do with the improvement of the type of wages that should be imposed upon employers under certain circumstances and in certain industries and communities. These measures are designed to continue the program of social amelioration of this government.

I advocated not long ago the total economic mobilization of this country as the basis for the realization of our goal, a new ideology of spreading contentment and happiness for our people derived from the social and economic benefits by the development of our resources, industries, commerce, and every productive activity.

For the first time in the history of civil administration in this country, not more than two months ago, the Philippine Republic adopted a complete and concrete program of economic development. This program is no longer a mere blueprint. We are no longer theorizing. We are actually in the heat of execution. We have actually employed millions and millions of pesos for the realization of our huge economic program. We brought home from the United States P200,000,000, a part of our gold reserve lying idle there for decades and decades in order to utilize as capital investment to promote and develop our industries. From that money we have already allocated today not less than P115,000,000.

For abaca alone we have earmarked and authorized an expenditure of not less than P35,000,000 in order to maintain our monopoly of that product in the world market. For the production of rice I have allotted P15,000,000 out of that capital investment of P200,000,000, besides the current appropriation for the development of 10,000 hectares of land in Cotabato, in Ala Valley; and another 10,000 hectares in Mindoro, as well as another 10,000 hectares in the Cagayan Valley, for the production of rice and for which current appropriations have already been provided in order to develop these rice lands and produce and insure the stability of this cereal for the coming year. We have set aside P10,000,000 for the immediate construction of irrigation projects, setting aside P24,000,000 for this purpose. We have set aside several millions more to take care of other minor irrigation systems that can now be utilized in some localities and only need recommissioning and rehabilitation or repair. We have set aside millions of pesos to reawaken interest in tobacco as well as the reorganization of the coconut and copra. We are now attempting to reorganize the coconut industry in order to multiply the opportunities for the use of that agricultural product. We have organized in some places and plan the reorganization of other branches of the National Bank in others in order that credit facilities may be democratized and established in strategic points of production from the extreme north to Mindanao. With these credit facilities, I am quite sure that the country will have more facilities to encourage or give impetus to small and new or initial industries.

My friends, the greatest danger to the country today is disunion. The greatest threat to our union is ambition, and the greatest danger to ambition is purely personal aggrandizement.

Believe me, my friends, because I come from you. Believe me because I have worked and suffered with you. Believe me because I want to serve you, and believe me because I will fight for you, for the welfare of the common man, the masses from which I came. (*Applause*)

More than any other time in our history is there need for sober meditation. The whole world today is proud to see this new republic rise as an exemplary institution of democracy. The whole world today looks upon us not only as a young republic but as a model republic. All around us, we are surrounded by social and political upheavals. There is commotion to our north. There is commotion west. There is commotion to our south. There is struggle towards the east. We are surrounded by dangers. We are beset by problems that sooner or later will arise in our shores and influence our national life. We are not so ambitious as to aspire to rule this region, or lead in the life of our neighbors, but we do aspire for internal national stability. For centuries after centuries, we have aspired to achieve this. That opportunity has come in 1946. From that date on you know what has happened. It is not true that this country has been remaining stagnant. Our affairs have been taken care of.

Not less than one year ago, you could not stand on this spot and think with all the candidness of your conscience of the problems of the country. There was still that sense of instability, of fear perhaps that our life is not secure. I have not said that this country is peaceful everywhere. That there is peace and order in this country, I want you to go out and see for yourselves. You don't have to risk your neck when you go through Pampanga, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, or Tarlac today. That there were killings here and killings there is true. When Abe Lincoln, the greatest President of the United States, was assassinated, the whole country of the United States was not agog, feeling that there was national disorder. That was just an act of an irresponsible element in the same manner that our poor and beloved friend has passed across the Divide owing to some irresponsible men. When there is a killing here, and a killing there, it is not because the government is not functioning normally as long as the police and the armed forces are there to watch the security of the country. Any untoward, miraculous incident or accident cannot alter the situation of our political institution.

I warn you, my friends, anybody making political capital out of the greatest disgrace that ever fell on the nation, is a disgrace to the nation. They only seek to blemish and blacken the name of the new Republic which now enjoys the admiration, prestige, and even love of our neighbors. Those who would rejoice or are giving unjustifiable excuse for the murder perpetrated within our time and set the blame on the administration are simply aligned with those who are bent on robbing us of our name in their eagerness to align themselves with some foreign power. Many curses have confronted us in our struggle for statehood, pestilence wars, starvation, tortures. But one of the greatest curses today is that one launched by the fifth horseman of the Apocalypse, acknowledging without cause that this effective responsibility is tottering simply because one or two men have determined to blot the name of the country.

My friends, I appeal to you for a sense of proportion I appeal to you for cooperation, for love of attachment for mutual protection in the name of our children, in the name of posterity. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1949). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino before the Baguio meeting of the Liberal Party's National Committee, May 7, 1949

**Extemporaneous Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the Baguio meeting of the Liberal Party's National Committee**

[Delivered on May 7, 1949]

OASIS IN THE DESERT

I APPRECIATE more than I can express your vote of confidence in my leadership. The yearning of my life is to so conduct myself that nobody will ever consider it misplaced. It came to me like a gentle flower from the filth and mud to which I have been dragged in our recent political and partisan bickerings. I have a feeling that at long last I am coming upon the oasis in the desert years of my public life.

We are gathered this morning to exalt our political institution. The successive political events that have rocked the nation from the center of legislative power have been a revelation to me. Yet it may appear strange to you that I feel happy in having been chosen as one of the incidents in the supreme test of the soundness of our political institution. Subjected as I have been to the cruelest public scrutiny and emerging thereafter enjoying the esteem and confidence of my colleagues in the executive and legislative departments of our government, I can not ask for anything more from you. All that should vindicate my name as a public servant.

The resolution of the provincial governors and city mayors in convention the other day and the resolution of the National Committee of the Liberal Party today, reiterating the confidence of my colleagues in the government and in the party in my actuations as head of this nation and of the party, constitute the greatest consolation in my thankless job of establishing in this country a regime of respect for the law and the conscience of this nation.

Others like me have been placed on the carpet in the merciless crusade for a clean and honest government. It should not be queer that, having started the movement, I should be dragged into the vortex of its fury. There is a native saying that whoever wields the broom "gets the dust." My only regret is that in wielding the broom, I have been mistaken for the dust. The outcome of the other cases has been varied and different. But the ultimate result, by the national estimation of this unusual effort of the epoch, vindicates the name of our people and reaffirms the stability and strength of our democratic institution. We have proven beyond doubt not only national resiliency but also political stability.

No wonder that in our tutelage under different powers and systems of government, in our bitter experiences as a struggling people, in our multiple contacts with foreign elements employing heretofore unknown weapons of conquest, of domination, and of absorption, we have trained ourselves to grapple within and without, with our taxing national problems, for survival as a people. And this generation that has inherited the wisdom and experience of our earlier leaders and the epochal struggles of our race, has been able to derive inspiration from our leaders of the past. Thus, we have known how to employ on opportune occasions the alertness, aggressiveness or impulsiveness of a Quezon; or on other occasions the patience and deliberation of an Osmeña; and at times, the brilliance and vision of a Roxas, or the audacity of an Aguinaldo; but, all the time, the inspiration and spirit of self-abnegation and love of country of Rizal and his colleagues in the early awakening of our national consciousness. Verily, we now present a new pattern in our political life that we have only discovered as we knit the loose threads that had characterized the different leaderships throughout our national history. Thus, the new pattern of democracy in its color and texture as established in this country, is not only peculiar to our country as a unique product of international influences but also adaptable in this era of universal readjustment. I can now see and conclude that as long as we do not destroy the warp and woof of our national life, the new pattern that we have established in this part of the Orient shall survive and endure.

So, rather than lament the recent political convulsions that have apparently shaken seriously our political institution, we should thank the efforts of our alert, aggressive, and impulsive leaders in Congress for having roused the country from its lethargy and complacency and challenged a long-established and tolerated order of life that was undermining the existence of our political institution and robbing us of the name, reputation, and respect that we now enjoy in the council of nations.

I like to see the direct and incisive philosophy of political life of Tañada, the tactical maneuvers of Arranz, the big stick of Mabanag, the coolness and earnestness of Cuenco, the piercing malice and wisdom of Diokno, the technical resourcefulness of Francisco, the abrupt and clean-cut actuations of Lopez, the political romanticism of Sanidad, the uproarious outbursts of Pendatun, and even the curious malignment of Angeles David—all these in the Upper House, stirring the political hornet's nest, but all calming down and subsiding in reverence to our laws, to our Constitution, and to our high responsibilities as leaders of this nation, accepting with grace the verdict of history in the present stage of our national life.

I could only say the same thing in the Lower House: the partisan consistency and stubbornness of Primicias, the immovable firmness and coolness of Sumulong, the gentle and tactful influence of Leuterio, and the fatherly guidance of our *Manong*, just to enumerate a few examples.

My great hope and earnest wish is that, after this interesting experiment in our national evolution, we can now turn our attention to other phases of our national objectives.

So much for our political life. I shall invite you to turn a new leaf and open a new chapter in our economic life. This is where we need less political theorizing and experimentation.

Now that our house is in order, let us go out to the premises, to the backyard, to the garden, to the farm, to the forest, to the mountains, and even to the air, and contemplate the whole panorama of our national life. We cannot live in honor, righteousness, and honesty alone. The new evangels of this era cannot continue merely preaching their abstract aspirations. We can no longer soar high, mixing ourselves with the molecules in an effort to find the ways and means of feeding our people, providing them with the human necessities to make our lives worth living in a practical and troubled world.

Positive efforts, concrete endeavors, and substantial achievements are the inescapable bases of our enduring existence. It was right, when we were still planning for the future, to scan the skies, interpret the movements of the planets, and invoke spiritual guidance from the unknown, giving expression to our imprisoned thoughts in our vague intrusions into the unexplored and the unexpected. As long as this nation must lean upon something solid on which to lay the foundations of a stable economic life as the fountain source of the contentment and happiness that we must afford to our people, we must clip our wings and discontinue making ambiguous, philosophical disquisitions on the manner in which we should solve our practical problems as a nation.

Our action must be positive and not negative, distilling from the misgivings or failures of others a program of action based on mere theorizing. The problems of state are vital, practical, and concrete. We live in a confused world where a person does not know where to stand firm and secure unless he counts not only upon his individual efforts to stand on his own feet but also on the support of others struggling for co-existence, mutual protection, and goodwill.

Much of the success of any living creature does not depend merely upon its isolated existence. There is something that should supplement and complement its life in a society created by the Great Master. No nation lives by itself alone at this moment. It must count upon friends, upon the sympathy of others, upon friendship, upon the one thousand and one things that make human relations the determining factor in a successful human existence.

Thus, as we put our house in order and establish here a stable political and economic life, we must cast our eyes beyond our confines and look for the society, the company, and the friendship of other nations that make of our national life a real part of world institutions. That is our new life, our new aspiration, our outlook, as a new democracy. In achieving our high purposes and objectives, as leaders of this country, we must, therefore, examine our conscience, our very acts, to see if they are in keeping with the high ideals of community life in this new world.

We should not sacrifice our country's future simply because we want to lead this nation when, in so doing, we know very well that we may be sacrificing the permanent interest of the country and people. The real test is our readiness to sacrifice self for country.

Many of you have exposed and perhaps sacrificed your political fortunes in the most recent test of our country's stability. Your greatest hope, your greatest consolation, your biggest reward, will be the recognition of your patriotic efforts by those who succeed you. I invite you all to continue unrelenting in the noble cause that you have espoused for the country's name. The Liberal Party has shown to the whole world that it knows how to clean its house, that it is true to its high principles of government, and earnest in establishing a constructive regime for the permanent existence of our Republic. You cannot be ashamed of its actuations; you cannot be discouraged by the results; you cannot in all dignity retreat in your steps as leaders of this Party by destroying the organization or renouncing its responsibility, or changing its name—the name which you and I have justly redeemed in our recent efforts in the Administration.

As for me, I am still proud that I am a Liberal. I have gone through a thorny path in the realization of the Party objectives. I have the distinction of being the first Chief Executive of the land to be impeached for seemingly reproachable acts under the Constitution, under our laws, and under our traditions as a people.

“I care not what the world may seem,
Not if the day is bright or dim;
I do not count the pangs of years,
Nor tell of hours I spent in tears,
Because I know God still sends
The light and warmth that I may need,
Because I know, I know God blends
The joys and tears to make my creed.”

Thus, I thought and expressed myself in early youth; thus I think and express myself in my declining years. God willing, I will continue the crusade and fight it through. With your continued support and promptings and the strength I am confident you will always give me in sinews and in morale, I expect to justify your actuations and mine, and earn the favorable verdict of history!

Source: The Quirino Way: Collection of Speeches and Addresses of Elpidio Quirino

Speech of President Quirino at the memorial service in Honor of Doña Aurora Aragon Quezon given by the Philippine National Red Cross, May 9, 1949

**Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Memorial service in honor of Doña Aurora Aragon Quezon given by the Philippine National Red
Cross**

[Delivered at Malacañan, May 9, 1949]

MOTHER OF HER RACE

IT IS a common belief and feeling among men and women everywhere that their mission on earth ceases when they lose their respective spouses in their declining years. Many even wish to be buried together in the Christian belief that they can still travel together in the life beyond. Their devotion and attachment to each other inspire the conviction that their union is as indestructible below as it is eternal above. And if one fails to follow the other soon in the other side of life, the former, if young enough, seeks another's company in his or her nostalgia or, that failing, considers the rest of his or her own life as a mere transition until he or she crosses the Great Divide. Still others, who may no longer entertain such longing, consider themselves as dead among the living and gradually languish away.

There are notable examples of such types in our own country. In fact, I know several of them. But there are also notable exceptions. One of them is the beautiful soul whose memory we are gathered to exalt tonight.

Mrs. Quezon, devoted and attached to her husband as she had always been all her life, human enough to feel the immeasurable loss of her beloved husband's demise, summoned all the courage and wisdom that she could muster from her heritage and determined to continue her husband's life struggles while she lived. It was she who had served as the lever that had gauged the course of her husband's public life. She had stabilized and steadied his movements and convictions as he embarked upon his aggressive and compelling patriotic endeavors at the height of his strength, power, and influence as a leader of his people. The husband's vicissitudes of fortune in his great battles of life had made him turn his eyes upon the lot of the common man. But it was she who touched and softened his heart and made him champion the cause of the masses, the underprivileged, the underfed. President Quezon's social justice had been Aurora Quezon's inspiration and passion.

But great as her influence had been, she had never abused it to further even a justifiable personal pride when she knew that grave problems of state were involved. She had asked nothing for herself. She had never suggested that she would be sharing the criticism or glorification of her husband's conduct even if it affected her feelings or dignity as the mother of his children. Nor had she minded being dragged along up or down as her husband's career had brought him higher or lower in the national estimation. She had always risen to the occasion in the most helpful spirit. In fact, there were times when it was most difficult to distinguish . . . Over and above her realization of some of her husband's failings in his human adventures, was her absolute confidence in her husband's devotion and respect for her, which she undoubtedly had inspired by her conduct and her prayers. Quezon, the great man and leader, became the greater because of the inspiring influence of Mrs. Quezon, the woman and wife. And thenceforth, she eventually became the rock of refuge and of strength to many a Filipino leader beset with the burden of the people's problems. That she did all this quietly within the private sanctuary of the home, is a grateful fact and commentary on the womanhood of this country.

Aurora Aragon Quezon was not only the first of the First Ladies of the land. In her own right, she was also a grand lady. The insuperable dignity, wisdom, and grace with which she carried her responsibility to the nation after the death of President Quezon were no accident; they came as the mature flowering of a lifetime of responsible, devoted, and fulfilled comradeship. When she undertook to head our National Red Cross, she simply acceded to giving her formal confirmation, or her own right, of being in fact and in truth, mother to her people. She did not merely lend her name, great as it was, to that noble cause. She labored mightily, doing yeoman service like everyone

else who belonged to it, and provided it with its deepest and most abiding inspiration. Our people may not know now who was the greater, Quezon the Father of his country, or Aurora Quezon, the truly symbolic mother of her race. But history will record these two, both of them, as the greatest benefactors of this generation, and Mrs. Quezon as the greatest woman in her country.

The world has shared our people's sorrow in her tragic passing. I have received condolences from heads of States as well as from the Holy Father and from other friends abroad. Those of us who knew her well can most truly say: to know her was to respect her, to admire her, to love her. No longer will she grace the halls of the land which were wont to be exalted by her ennobling personality; no longer will welfare institutions feel the touch of her kind heart and hand. No longer will these Palace halls be dignified by her handsome and queenly figure; no longer will these walls receive the impact of her gentle influence. No longer will this atmosphere, which for many years she had enlivened with her wisdom and charm, be permeated with the spirit of racial honor and pride—by her presence as the embodiment of the noblest type of Filipino womanhood.

Every one of us feels the poorer because of her death. But all of our people as well as our posterity will be the richer because she has lived.

Source: The Quirino Way: Collection of Speeches and Addresses of Elpidio Quirino

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Necrological Speech of President Quirino at the Memorial Services in Honor of Doña Aurora given by the Philippine National Red Cross

**Necrological Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the memorial services in Honor of Doña Aurora Given by the Philippine National Red Cross**

[Delivered at Malacañan, May 9, 1949]

**WE FEEL THE POORER BECAUSE OF
MRS. QUEZON'S DEATH**

At the memorial services in honor of Doña Aurora given by the Philippine National Red Cross at Malacañan on May 9, 1949, President Elpidio Quirino declared in the necrological speech that follows that Aurora Aragon Quezon was not only the first of the First Ladies of the Land, but that, "in her own right, she was simply grand." The President said that "our people may not know now who was the greater, Quezon the Father of his country, or Aurora Quezon, the truly symbolic mother of her race," but that history will record both of them as the greatest benefactors of this generation.

MY COUNTRYMEN:

IT IS a common belief and feeling among men and women everywhere that their mission on earth ceases when they lose their respective spouses in their declining years. Many even wish to be buried together in the Christian belief that they can still travel together in the life beyond. Their devotion and attachment to each other inspire the conviction that their union is as indestructible below as it is eternal above. And if one fails to follow the other soon in the other side of life, the former, if young enough, seeks another's company in his or her nostalgia or, that failing, considers the rest of his or her own life as a mere transition until he or she crosses the Great Divide. Still others, who may no longer entertain such longing, consider themselves as dead among the living and gradually languish away.

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But great as her influence had been, she had never abused it to further even a justifiable personal pride when she knew that grave problems of state were involved. She had asked nothing for herself. She had never suggested that she would be sharing the criticism or glorification of her husband's conduct even if it affected her feelings or dignity as the mother of his children. Nor had she minded being dragged along up or down as her husband's career had brought him higher or lower in the national estimation. She had always risen to the occasion in the most helpful spirit. In fact, there were events where it was difficult to distinguish . . . Because far and above her realization of

some of her husband's failings in his human adventures, she had had absolute confidence in her husband's devotion and respect for her, which she undoubtedly had inspired by her conduct and her prayers. Quezon, the great man and leader, became the greater because of the inspiring influence of Mrs. Quezon, the woman and wife. And thenceforth, she eventually became the rock of refuge and of strength to many a Filipino leader beset with the burden of the people's problems. That she did all this quietly within the private sanctuary of the home, is a grateful fact and commentary on the womanhood of this country.

Aurora Aragon Quezon was not only the first of the First Ladies of the land. In her own right, she was simply grand! The insuperable dignity, wisdom, and grace with which she carried her responsibility to the nation after the death of President Quezon were no accident; they came as the mature flowering of a lifetime of responsible, devoted, and fulfilled comradeship. When she undertook to head our National Red Cross, she simply acceded to giving her formal confirmation, on her own right, of being in fact and in truth, mother to her people. She did not merely lend her name, great as it was, to that noble cause. She labored mightily, doing yeoman service like everyone else who belonged to it, and provided its deepest and most abiding inspiration. Our people may not know now who was the greater, Quezon the Father of his country, or Aurora Quezon, the truly symbolic mother of her race. But history will record these two, both of them, as the greatest benefactors of this generation, and Mrs. Quezon as the greatest woman in her country.

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Every one of us feels the poorer because of her death. But all of our people as well as our posterity will be the richer because she has lived.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1949). *The new Philippine ideology*. Manila : Bureau of Printing.

Message of President Quirino on Memorial Day, May 30, 1949

Memorial Day address of President Quirino at the U. S. Embassy grounds, May 30, 1949:

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Filipinos and Americans alike pause once again to pay grateful homage and to assess our obligations to America's unnumbered heroic dead.

They laid down their lives that the American people might, preserve their union and retain their cherished liberty, that the oppressed peoples of other lands and climes might enjoy the same boon of freedom, and that the whole world might live without fear.

I have a vivid picture of America's noble mission in my own land. In the afternoon as I gaze over the sunset at Manila Bay, I erect in my memory a statue of liberty on the black rock of Corregidor against a background of multicolored haze—of blue, of violet, of vermillion, of crimson, beautifully combined as by a master painter, to constitute a symbolic halo of America's setting sun on Philippine horizon—a sun that recedes leaving behind it the glow and the glory of a great libertarian mission.

There are many such sunsets in other lands today. Tomorrow they will increase. For, henceforth, as one roams the seven seas and commutes across four continents, one's eyes will never fail to observe that there is hardly a corner of this good earth but what has been enriched by good American blood to nourish the great American dream—the promise of the good life for all, born out of a passionate devotion to freedom and sanctified by the sacrifices of those whose bones are honored guests in foreign soil.

The progress of this dream dating back from long before Gettysburgh, and coming down to our clay through the Spanish-American War and the two World Wars, stirs the imagination. Today, almost every American home from sunny California to cold New England is linked by memorial bonds of common sacrifice extending to the farthest reaches of the Pacific and the Atlantic, to the frozen wastes around the two poles, to Asia, Africa and Europe. America gave the flower of her manhood and the cream of her substance in the most prodigal proportion in an adventure without parallel in the history of human effort, not in pursuit of plunder or power but for the noble realization and protection of that dream. Their blood and treasure were expended without stint and without measure, without distinction as to land and sky—in the jungles of Bataan and Guadalcanal, on the beaches of Normandy and Carigara and Lingayen, on the burning sands of Africa, the sunny slopes of Italy and the frozen tundras in perpetual winter. I stood across the ruins of the monastery of Mt. Casino one day, scene of one of the fiercest battles fought in Italy, and was moved by the sight of the huge white cross of the Polish cemetery, at the foot of which I read the following epitaph: "They gave their lives to liberty, their bones to Italy, and their hearts to their fatherland." In the choice burial grounds of this my sun-kissed land, we see uncountable white crosses for the Filipino and American dead, for which a similar epitaph can well be dedicated: "For those who gave their lives to the freedom of this country, their bones to enrich the soil they redeemed, and their all for the peace and security of the world."

Wherever the dream was challenged or desecrated, America sent her youth to bear the brunt of the battle. The Philippines, benefiting from the blessings of that dream, also gave the flower of its youth; bore willingly and gallantly its share of sacrifice.

It takes one's breath away to view in retrospect the courageous march of these heroes of democracy and justice, "wearing their wounds like stars." No spot on earth is alien to them and their deeds. They constitute the great American record of faith and freedom that stands incomparable to any in the history of mankind.

And because of this fact, the eyes of the whole world are focused on America today—the eyes of friends, allies and former foes alike. While there is stupendous gratitude for and admiration of the record, while it has struck great hope and faith among all peoples, the wonder remains as to what extent those who make America today will heed the spirit of her heroic dead and continue the unfinished task of liberty and justice for all mankind. For the task is as

obviously unfinished as it is tremendous. And the whole world, in spite or precisely because of the allure of a rising doctrine of violence, looks to America to lead.

America's heroic dead can have only one charge to the living:

*“Take up our quarrel with the foe!
To you from failing hands we throw
The Torch—be yours to hold it high;
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep. . . .”*

That must be the voice not only from the silent poppy fields of France but from Corregidor or Okinawa's highest hill.

America is still the world's greatest hope. The sacrifice of her heroic million dead has raised her to that highest distinction and responsibility. Peoples of the world who have benefited from her sacrifice and service or have glimpsed the vision of her glorious heritage, are anxious to see her provide the leadership and assistance to achieve a unity of peace and plenty that alone can guarantee the lasting welfare and happiness of her people and make the ultimate measure of her loyalty to her heroic deed.

This hope will remain as stubborn, compelling and universal as the memory of America's noble dead is eternal.

The voice of Franklin Delano Roosevelt now rings more eloquently than ever before from his simple but gentle grave at Hyde Park:

“. . . .We cannot and must not build walls around ourselves and hide our heads in the sands; we must go forward with all our strength and stress and strive for international peace.”

In the face of the turmoil still besetting our troubled world, I seem to hear him continue repeating with the poet:

*“I am not resigned to the shutting away of loving hearts in the hard ground,
So it is, and so it will be, for so it has been, time out of mind;
“Into the darkness they go, the wise and the lovely. Crowned
With lilies and with laurel they go; but I am not resigned.
“Down, down, down into the darkness of the grave
Gently they go, the beautiful, the tender, the kind;
Quietly they go, the intelligent, the witty, the brave.
I know. But I do not approve. And I am not resigned.*

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Excerpts of the Acceptance Speech of President Quirino upon his nomination as standard bearer of the Liberal Party

**Excerpts of the Acceptance Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Upon his nomination as standard bearer of the *Liberal Party***

[Delivered at the Santa Ana Recreation Hall on June 12, 1949]

That you have chosen me as the standard bearer of the Liberal Party in the bid for national leadership in the coming elections will constitute a priceless treasure in my none too rich heritage in the public service. . .

When on July 4, 1946 we established this new Republic, we little knew that we were establishing a responsible and creditable unit in the promotion of world peace, security and contentment. From the shambles of a most cruel, war, we hardly anticipated that we would erect a strong, stable government within so short a period. We little hoped that we would rise from our prostration so quickly; erect and reconstruct our homes, our Government and our industries in record time. We unexpectedly rediscovered a new spiritual strength in our courageous determination to rise from our misfortune and misery. And yet that is now history. It is a history that our people can be proud of, a history that our people can well record as the greatest test of our intelligence, resourcefulness, courage and vision—a history of which the Liberal Party can be justly proud for its amply successful direction of the nation's course during the short but eventful period.

Today we are met to renew our determination to follow that distinct course in our national history. We shall not be distracted from our arduous task, from our rocky and thorny path. We summon everything that is great and noble in our character as a race in our unflinching effort to secure our highest objectives. We are not going to wage a fratricidal war. We are not accepting the puerile and childish challenges of our adversaries. Our slogan is not destruction but construction. Our goal is security and stability. We have a new weapon. Our adversaries have their peculiar own. One would use disillusionment and despondency, anger and revenge, indecency and vulgarity, insanity and bitterness—bile. The other would use metaphysics and hallucinations, threats and violence, desperation and revolution—fire.

Ours is different: Construction and development, abundance and contentment, social amelioration and dignification of the masses, total economic mobilization food production—rice. To bile, our answer is charity and understanding. To fire, our answer is steadiness and serenity. To both, our answer is greater love and respect for our country and people whose decency and intelligence will not be insulted with bile and fire, with political bilge and arsonism.

We have a tremendous task before us. Our program of total economic mobilization, implemented with already allocated millions of pesos for its execution, cannot be fully accomplished in four years. But we shall not ask for more time to secure these basic foundations of an economy of abundance for our people. In the same manner that we have successfully established the firm foundations of this Republic, so our party is establishing, and we pledge to continue the full establishment of, our firm economic foundations.

We shall not be deterred by philosophic disquisitions on the procedure we have adopted. We shall again submit our accomplishments and will want to be judged by our action and not by our pledge. In fact, I for one did not even have an opportunity to make a pledge when I assumed office as the head of this Nation. And as I accept with all humility the new challenge to further service, I submit myself to our party and to our people on the basis of my accomplishments and with the training, experience and highest motives that inspired me to accept the nomination.

I accept the challenge because I expect your undivided support manifested by the unanimity of sentiment with which you have chosen me. I accept the challenge because I consider it my highest duty as long as I live to continue serving my country to the utmost and the last of my efforts.

I accept the challenge because I want to help the Liberal Party fulfill its pledges. I accept the challenge because I want to help each and everyone of you in our determination to pursue our policy of clean, honest and efficient government. I accept the challenge because I want to serve further the interests of our people, particularly that great mass of the common man from which I sprang. I accept the challenge because I know we are going to win, for win we must—and we will!

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Excerpts from President Quirino's acceptance speech upon his nomination as standard bearer of the *Liberal Party* at the Santa Ana Recreation Hall, June 12, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(6), 2434-2435.

Speech of President Quirino before the Veterans of the Philippine Revolution [Filipino]

**Talumpati
ng
Kagalang-galang Elpidio Quirino
Pangulo ng Pilipinas
Na ipinahayag sa harap ng mga Beterano ng Rebolusyon ng Pilipinas**

[Ipinahayag sa Kawit, Cavite, ika 12 ng Hunyo, 1949]

PANGULONG AGUINALDO, MGA BETERANO AT MGA KAIBIGAN:

Narito tayo ngayon upang ipagdiwang ang Unang Kasarinlan ng Pilipinas na pinagkamatayan at dinilig ng dugo ng ating mga bayani. Limampu't isang taon ang nakalipas buhat noong '98 nang ipahayag dito sa Kawit, Cavite, ang nasabing Kasarinlan. Sa kasamaang palad ang Unang Republika natin ay hindi lumawig.

Ang kasarinlang ipinagkaloob sa atin ng Amerika noong ika-4 ng Hulo ng 1946 ay siyang gantimpala sa sikap at pag-ibig sa bayan ng magigiting na Pilipino na katulad nina Rizal, Del Pilar, Bonifacio at ng ating Aguinaldo, na ipinagpatuloy ng mga lider natin sa kapayapaan na kaparis ng namatay na Presidente Quezon, naging Pangulong Osmeña at ng Pangulong Roxas.

Ang ating independencia ngayon ay ganap at tiyak. Sa katunayan, ang Pilipinas ngayon ay kinikilalang isang bansa sa mundo at kagawad ng UNO.

Tungkol sa patakaran ng ating administracion ay masasabi ko sa inyo na ang una sa lahat ay ang ukol sa kabutihan ng nakararaming taong bayan. Dahil dito, ang tungkol sa pagsasaka o agricultura, kalakal at industriya ay binibigyan ko ng higit na pansin sapagka't ito ang mabisang paraan upang ang mga obrero at agrikultor ay mahango sa kahirapan, at makihati sila sa mga kayamanan ng ating mga lupa, bundok, at dagat at gayon din sa mga pakinabang ng puhunan; nang sa gayo'y mabuhay sila nang maginhawa at maligaya.

Dahil sa inyong mahalagang tulong, ay umaasa ako na ang pangarap ni Dr. Rizal ay matutupad na ayon sa kaniyang sabi:

“* * * hiyas ng dagat-Silangan,
Na sa mata'y walang luha,
taas-noong nakatunghay,
Hindi kimi't walang bahid na ano mang kahihyan.”

Ang bagay na iyan ay hindi magagawa nang biglaan. Bigyan ninyo ako ng sapat na panahon at sisikapin ko na magawa ko ang aking makakaya.

Ngayong tayo'y may sarili nang gobierno, kinakailangan ang ating pagkakaisa at pagtutulongan. Mahalin natin ito sapagka't malaki ang inyong puhunan sa bayan at dahil dito ay katungkulan natin na ipagtanggol laban sa sino man na magnanais na ibagsak ang Pamahalaan.

Magkaisa tayong lahat at mahalín natin ang ating Bandila at ang ating Republika. MABUHAY KAYONG LAHAT!

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). The President's speech in the National Language before Veterans of the Philippine Revolution at Kawit, Cavite, June 12, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(6), 2435-2436.

Message of President Quirino, June 15, 1949

The President's Eighth Monthly Radio Chat, June 15, 1949:

Now that the major political parties have held their conventions and announced their platforms and standard-bearers, I hope that there will be at least a temporary breathing spell after an unprecedented tension due to political hysteria. The dramatization of the party processes with the attendant sensations caused by those who had something to get out of their system must subside for a time. The people should be given every opportunity to make intelligent appraisal of the political issues being presented to them, in the most dispassionate manner. It is the security and freedom with which the people can make this appraisal that constitutes the very core and substance of our democratic heritage.

Every election year is testing time for the vigor and value of our free institutions. In effect every election submits our people to the crucible and determines our right to the blessings of a democratic system established through the sacrifices of our heroic predecessors. The opportunity given to our people during this time to weigh issues and the men identified with such issues is as much a test to our people's loyalty to the democratic traditions that are the blood, bone and sinew of our prized political institutions.

It is gratifying to note that the press, as vital part of our free institutions, is affording our people every possible responsible assistance to make good use of the opportunity to see the real issues clearly and get the facts essential to sound judgment. The power of our press is not to be denied. It is a power that works two ways—one for destruction and the other for construction, one for confusion and the other for crystallization, one for prejudice and hate and the other for truth and understanding.

It is curious that, very often, the calamity howlers much in currency today are people in comfortable circumstances—well-housed, well-fed, well-dressed. Their looks of well-being do not square with their dire lamentations. They cry tyranny and yet they have freedom to excess in shouting it to the four winds of heaven. They cry corruption but would not lift a finger to help do the dirty work of cleaning—they say it is their precious secret which they would keep to themselves presumably for their leverage to power.

It is my great hope that in maintaining their leverages to power our press itself will strike a balance somewhere to give light an equal chance with the shadows of our life as a democracy.

For our press owes it to our people to foster the sound perspective needed for intelligent appraisal of the crucial issues of the day. I take the press to be not only a mirror but a guide. Where confusion is worse confounded, the guidance can only be negligible if not vicious and harmful.

The issues before the country today are grave and fundamental. They involve the greatest problems of construction and development to insure the security and stability of the nation. The slogans should not be careless expressions of temporary tensions. They should be sober and more far-reaching. And the issues should not hang merely on the vindication of the honor and the aspirations of a single man that would sacrifice the welfare of the entire people to realize them. They are not merely to clear the name of a single person whose loyalty to the country's highest interests had been questioned in a period of terror under alien domination and dictatorship. What should occupy the mind and soul of our people is the manner in which we should continue laying the firm foundations of our democratic institutions and insuring a life of substance and contentment that would make such institutions survive. We must always remember that we are not living in the world alone, that when we launched the Republic of the Philippines three years ago we meant it to be a strong unit in the contribution to world peace and security. To destroy that unit by fratricidal dissension or internal disintegration would be national suicide. Our efforts, fruitful and eloquent as they have been demonstrated so far, would be set at naught.

I would like every citizen of this country to discuss more actively and responsibly in his household and neighborhood, and not only at public squares, the current topics of the day. A child who inquires about his prospect for room in his school should be answered affirmatively. The father, if a teacher, may be informed that his salary has been increased. If he is an enlisted man in the Army, the same may be said of him. If he is a tobacco planter, he may tell the news that he can now plant more tobacco because the industry has been revived by the government.

Similarly with the abaca planter, who can now secure a handsome crop loan. The coconut grower may apprise his neighbors that there is now an appropriation to eradicate the coconut pest commonly known as “kadang-kadang.” The rice grower may also inform his neighbors that irrigation systems are being established everywhere and that fertilizers are being provided to increase his production. The existence of the PACSA as a field agency of the government to minister to the needs of the suffering people in the barrios may be a proper household topic. The general discussion may include an inquiry as to who is responsible for all these benefits and for the incarceration or dismissal of erring officials. The household members may then judge who can steadily secure all these for the country—and so on, until the collective family opinion becomes the public opinion of the community, which may then spread and find honest reflection in the press that moulds public opinion. I conceive this to be constructive and fruitful way of stimulating public interest in the big issues before the country.

The world is watching this young democracy of ours. I am confident that we can survive the security. I am confident that our people will be able to detect the camouflage of peculiar birds seeking to don the feathers of honesty and decency, whose voices and manners are bound to give themselves away. I am confident no less that our people will not be bamboozled by irresponsible tall talk about revolution. Our people have become much too familiar with the recent nightmare of blood, terror and violence to wish for a return engagement so soon, however emphatic the promise of bread and good government which they did not have during that dark night of the war and which are now plain realities so obvious as to be taken for granted by our very articulate and uninhibited critics.

We have reason to be grateful today that we can talk our head off in any direction because we have freedom now as we never have enjoyed. But let us ever keep our sense of proportion. Let us consider the issues soberly and study the men that give them flesh reality. Our will must find true expression in November, and this ultimately depends on how responsibly we exercise our rights and privileges to this end. The choice is ours, yours and mine. We shall prove once again that democracy works in this country, that it is equal to every challenge of those who would sow distress, confusion, disaffection and violence to bring about their slave paradise.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Speeches of President Quirino and Argentine Minister Eleodoro Antenor Vieyra on the occasion of the latter's presentation of credentials

**Speeches
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
and
Honorable Eleodoro Antenor Vieyra
Argentine Minister
On the occasion of the latter's presentation of credentials**

[Released in Spanish at Macalañan, June 17, 1949]

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH OF RESPONSE

Señor Ministro:

Con sincera y profunda satisfaccion acojo en vos al primer Enviado Extraordinario y Ministro Plenipotentiary de la Republica Argentina en Filipinas. Vuestra presencia entre nosotros no es inesperada, pues es simplemente la demostracion material de una relation ha tiempo existente, la mutua simpatia y la afmidad espiritual entre el gran pueblo argentino y el nuestro. Vuestras elocuentes y emocionadas palabras de salutation, que he escuchado con intima complacencia, confirman esa relation, no solamente con la gloriosa nation argentina, sino con las otras republicas latino-americanas.

La historia de los pueblos del Centro y Sur del Hemisferio Occidental no nos es desconocida. Hay marcada similitud entre sus heroicos forcejeos por conseguir su libertad y nuestras luchas por el reconocimiento de nuestro derecho a regir nuestros propios destinos. De ahí nuestro afecto y admiration a los pueblos latino-americanos, a los que siempre hemos considera clo como hermanos en cultura, civilization e ideales. La Republica Argentina es para Filipinas un ejemplo alentador, no solo por su grandeza y progreso, sino principalmente por su fuerza y solidaridad, asi como por su profunda fe en su futuro.

Señor Ministro: No necesitais realizar una conquista espiritual en un pueblo, como el nuestro, cuyo afecto cordial hacia el pueblo argentino es tan antiguo y de tanta raigambre como la engua, la culture y la civilization que umbos paises recibieran de la antigua madre iberica. Esa hermandad, esperamos, se afianzara mas y mas con el correr de los tiempos. Lo que necesitamos es establecer relaciones mas solidas en esta epoca de reconstruction mimdial, a fin cle que podamos coadyuvar en la realizacion de la ambition de todos los pueblos de hoy de asegurar la paz y la felicidad universal. Para mi ese es el significado ineludible de vuestra presencia entre nosotros.

Deseo expresar mi honda satisfaccion y jubilo por Ista renovada manifestation de amistad del gran pueblo que vos representis en este mumentp en que se inician formalmente las relaciones diplomaticas entre ambos paises. Podeis estar seguros cle que nuestro Gobierno estara siempre dispuesto a colaborar en todo aquello que pueda ser beneficioso para ambos pueblos, en el orden economico, social y cultural.

Me honro, por tanto, en daros mi afectuosa y cordial bienvenida. Sea vuestra estancia en esta tierra beneficiosa y placentera. Servios transmitir al Excelentisimo señor Presidente de la Republica Argentina, General Juan Peron, mis fervientes votos por su felicidad personal y por la . prosperidad y bienestar del noble pueblo argentino.

THE ARGENTINE ENVOY'S PRESENTATION SPEECH

Excelentisimo Señor Presidente:

Tengo el altísimo honor de expresar a V. E. la honda emoción y profunda alegría que experimento de encontrarme en estas tierras tan bellas después de largo viaje, representando a mi país, en misión de paz y de amistad.

Al hilvanar con toda sencillez estas frases necesarias para este acto protocolar, uno de los más antiguos en el derecho consuetudinario internacional, y que simboliza en sí la iniciación de las relaciones diplomáticas entre este joven Estado y mi país, he sentido la necesidad de apartarme un tanto de lo puro y específicamente ceremonioso, para acercarme, con calor y con afecto, a la verdad espontánea y sinceramente amistosa, ya que la evolución de los regímenes políticos internacional ha clejado casi de lado las viejas costumbres, normas y ritos, ajustados y circunscritos a límites estrechos, que los acontecimientos del siglo ya no justifican.

Islas Filipinas! . . . Grandioso conjunto de islas que forman este hermoso archipiélago, arrullado por el majestuoso Pacífico que fertiliza eternamente sus costas, y saturado de bellezas por las aguas del grandioso Mar de la China, que da su caudal a la inmensa Bahía de Manila, marco sin par de la gallarda Capital de esta naciente República, incorporada al conjunto de las naciones libres para seguir su destino, bajo la segura dirección de un gobierno de patriotas competentes, a cuya cabeza se encuentra un eminente ciudadano, V. E. Dr. Elpidio Quirino, Presidente de la República de las Filipinas, con su corazón y sus patrióticos sentimientos puestos al máximo al servicio del engrandecimiento de la patria, para bienestar y orgullo de su pueblo, ideal más puro y digno de los hombres libres. Se de la importancia y profunda trascendencia de este acto, del que mi país me ha confiado el insigne honor de ser ejecutor. Se que por primera vez un joven diplomático argentino presenta sus credenciales ante las altas autoridades de esta nación amiga, que ha sabido ganar la libertad en la independencia. Se que el sembrado debe conocer, previo a todo la fertilidad del campo y los medios a tal fin, y se que, así, de su arado y de su mano depende el fruto de la siembra.

Y como los viejos conquistadores de nuestras tierras, que dejaron con su obra el espíritu, de donde nacieron las ideas de la libertad, tal vez contra su deseo, tierras que descubrieron no buscándolas, sino que encontraron en su épico camino hacia el Oriente, hoy llego yo a estas playas, destinado a la conquista del Oriente, pero no de tierras sino del espíritu y del alma de esta otra parte de la humanidad, tan distante de la nuestra, pero que, como toda la argentinidad, ama la razón misma del hombre, la libertad, la independencia, principio y fin por el que todas las patrias de la tierra fueron abonadas con la sangre de sus hijos más conscientes, más preclaros, cuya memoria hoy reverenciamos sin distinción de lugar de nacimiento y con un mismo nombre: HEROES!

La República Argentina y el mundo—conocen el nombre del *gran filipino y patriota*, Dr. Don José Rizal, sus hechos—y por ende su inclita memoria *no conoce, fronteras*.

Nosotros, los argentinos, tuvimos al Gran Capitán de los Andes, al General Don José de San Martín, forjador de la independencia de su pueblo y de la de otros de la América del Sur con los cuales ha forjado una hermandad indestructible. Nuestro Libertador, llamado el Santo de la Espada, nos legó, más que la independencia misma, el amor hacia ella. El amor que se ama para sí, en los hombres y pueblos sanos, se respeta y se ama en los demás hombres y pueblos de la tierra.

Excelentísimo Señor: el Gobierno de mi patria, que preside el Excelentísimo señor Presidente de la Nación, General Don Juan Perón, ha honrado a este modesto ciudadano y soldado con la Jefatura de la Representación Diplomática Argentina que tengo el altísimo honor de presidir, para que ponga en conocimiento de V. E. y lo evidencie en toda forma, que la Argentina, ahora socialmente justa, económicamente libre y políticamente soberana, gracias a la obra de esfuerzo y sacrificio de nuestro Presidente, coronada por la nueva constitución que su pueblo en magna asamblea acaba de sancionar, no solo es amiga de la República Filipina, sino que desea practicar a fondo la amistad cordial y las relaciones recíprocas. Es mi deseo, y considero necesario expresarlo lisa y llanamente, superar las funciones de diplomático y llegar a trabajar en comunidad con V. E. y su gobierno, para que la amistad y vínculos de todo orden, ya sea político, social, económico, cultural o artístico, y todo intercambio común de las buenas manifestaciones de la vida de los pueblos, sea, en su propio beneficio, como un símbolo de dos jóvenes amantes de la libertad que, aun en la distancia, buscan en la estrecha comprensión, la forma más práctica y factible de ayudarse en la solución de los problemas que pudieren afectarlos.

He aquí mi fondo y mi fin. Por ello es, podríamos decir, más delicada mi misión. Del favor que V. E. me dispense, y de la colaboración de vuestros dignos Secretarios de Estado, depende en gran parte el éxito de mi gestión.

Ofrezco desde ya la Legación Argentina a quien, bajo nuestra bandera celeste y blanca, emblema inspirado en la pureza del cielo, quiera traer o buscar con la misma pureza, la cordial unión de nuestro escudo, con su diestra y siniestra entrelazadas.

Excelentísimo señor Presidente de la República de Filipinas: soy portador del más cordial y afectuoso saludo para V. E., del Excelentísimo señor Presidente de la República Argentina Don Juan Perón, quien hace votos por vuestra ventura personal y la de todo el pueblo de vuestra Gran República, que tan dignamente dirigis.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). Texts in Spanish of the speeches of President Elpidio Quirino and Argentine Minister Eleodoro Antenor Veyra on the occasion of the latter's presentation of credentials at Malacañan, at 5 p.m., June 17, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(6), 2439-2442.

Address of President Quirino on Independence Day

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the Independence of the Philippines**

[Delivered at Luneta on July 4, 1949]

My Countrymen, Distinguished Guests and Friends:

Three years ago today and close on the heels of a terrible world war, the second but the most devastating ever, which left everything in shambles, the Filipino people dared the United States of America to fulfill her promise of independence. The time hardly seemed auspicious, but in an incomparable historic gesture of idealism and faith, America, the world's greatest democracy, honored her word and decided to launch the Republic of the Philippines in its adventure of freedom.

A world that was watching us had doubts, but not our own people nor the great people of America. Of its own will, the United States chose the 170th anniversary of its own independence to renounce its sovereignty in the Philippines, recognizing the right of our people to determine our own destiny. Thus, beaming with confidence and great faith and spurred by a burning determination to rise from our prostration, we the Filipino people became, on July 4, 1946, the first full-fledged democracy on this side of the great Pacific.

The record of our first three years of independent existence amply sustains that faith. The very influence of the record upon the outside world, especially upon our immediate neighbors, more than amply sustains that faith. Since the inauguration of our Republic, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma and Korea have followed our example, while Indonesia and Indo-China have followed closely to effect their liberation.

On his inauguration as first President of our Republic, President Roxas gave full appreciation of the difficulties facing us at the start. The beautiful surroundings that now lend grandeur to this year's Fourth of July celebration were then a sorrowful sight. Our other cities and towns were rubble in great part; our farms were so much abandoned waste land; our industries, mainstay of our pre-war economy, were crippled; our income was negligible; most every supply of material for food, clothing and shelter was in ration. Our schools were in ruins, the "barong-baro.ag" as a makeshift structure was not only the prevailing reality but also the common state of mind. Violence was more than a mere hangover of the war; it was the routing experience and not the nine-day sensation it has since become. We then predicted that it would take us no less than ten years to reconstruct our battered country and its institutions. But in three years, we have risen above those difficulties: we reconstituted and reorganized our institutions, reinvigorated our spiritual and material life, and established a pattern of freedom and peace in our part of the world.

The firm foundations of our body politic as a free and democratic nation have been successfully laid. We have, besides, designed a concrete and comprehensive plan of national development and launched its systematic fulfillment with ample funds for its implementation. While we have cast our eyes for assistance in some directions, largely towards the United States, and secured some, we looked into our resources directly and proceeded apace to lift our country on our own initiative. We have started full steam ahead and established the basis of our economic sovereignty.

In our total economic mobilization program, we have given immediate and full attention to food production. As a result of the program of expanding food production now in active execution, we have narrowed the margin of our foreign dependence for rice supply and have practically banished the blackmarket. Our average annual pre-war rice production was about 1,857,000 metric tons. Our present production is estimated at more than 2,240,000 metric tons. We have set up the machinery which will make the country within five years self-sufficient in the staple cereal that is the yard-stick of our living costs and standards.

We eat and dress and live better today than we have ever done since liberation and, in some respects, even before the war. The homes that we have built and are building today, whether for owners or for those who rent, for the well-to-do as well as for the modest employee and worker, are a decided improvement over what we ever had before the war—in design and function. Our cost of living has been reduced since 1946. The peso today can buy about 40 per cent more prime commodities since then, indicating that we are waging a successful war against the high cost of living, while at the same time increasing the purchasing power of the wage earner.

The Philippine peso is today recognized throughout the world as one of the most stable currencies, having a reserve of more gold and silver to back up its monetary circulation, compared proportionately with even the United States and other stable countries. Our foreign trade has jumped in volume from ₱72 million in 1946 to ₱1775 million in 1948, and the trend is still rising this year.

The growth of popular education has been adequately met. The pre-war enrollment in the public schools was about 1,944,000; today we have more than 3,372,000, and since last year no child of school age has been refused admission for lack of room, nor will there be any this year even with the prospect of much greater enrollment.

The highways, to sample the rate of rehabilitation of our public improvements that have been rebuilt or built or are in building all over the country, are now obvious pictures of the landscape; only a professional partisan grouse would deliberately miss them. The motorized traffic that crowds them everywhere attests to the vigor and substance of our recovery and development under the most strained conditions. All national, provincial and city roads existing at the outbreak of the war have been completely opened to traffic. In addition, more than three thousand kilometers of new roads have been constructed. In the course of a few more months, motorized traffic between Aparri and Sorsogon will be opened.

Since we became a Republic, about 2,400 public buildings, including hospitals, markets, post offices and municipal buildings have been built, reconstructed or repaired. An aggregate of 156 irrigation, river control and flood control projects have been constructed or repaired. In addition, almost all pre-war water supply systems, port works and other public works projects have been restored into operation. We have embarked upon a large scale construction of 17 major irrigation projects, setting aside therefor ₱10,000,000 this year for their construction in addition to the ₱22,000,000 worth of irrigation projects already provided for by law and ₱5,750,000 portable irrigation projects by the employment of pumps and pipes.

Now, let me turn to the lot of the less fortunate of our inhabitants, especially those who bore the brunt of the resistance at home or in the field. Large scale provisions and gratuities, back pay, hospitalization, educational and other benefits, have been made as a partial measure of the nation's appreciation of their loyalty and heroism. We shall not cease until they have been completely brought back to the normal productive pursuits of peace. And the teachers and the enlisted men in the Army, and the other low-salaried employees—they have all received increase in salary, providing them with a more decent livelihood.

At no time in the history of our nation has the worker, in this period, been given more opportunity to win benefits and privileges in our industrial set-up and to consolidate his gains consistent with the enlightened principles for the advancement of the welfare of the common man. The redistribution of landed estates has been accelerated; a system of extending credit facilities to small farmers and of apportioning uncultivated agricultural areas to expand food production and facilitate land acquisition by those wishing to work them has been perfected.

Graft and corruption is no monopoly of this country and Republic. We have proceeded to uproot it with utmost vigor within the sanctions of our constitutional and democratic processes, giving every man his day in court and putting him in jail when he deserves it. The infections of our body politic should worry us if we could find no feasible method of eradicating them except by cremating the whole body.

The solution to ills besetting our nation is not to be achieved by simple incantation. It rests on freedom to probe our soft spots and the will to apply the knife of truth, understanding and responsibility to them. We are a healthy Republic today because we have that freedom and that will.

Our Republic, I am proud to say, is the one especially bright spot in our corner of the Pacific today. It is the one spot where any stranger bringing good-will and understanding can feel immediately the warmth of our people's welcome and the advantages of our increasing restoration to the ways of freedom, productivity and peace.

In the currents and cross-currents of conflicting interests touching this part of the Pacific, our Republic en jots a unique position that is being viewed today from outside not without admiration and judicious envy. We have freedom, we have achieved a great measure of recovery and peace, we charted our course of economic development and are going ahead with it, we have concluded pacts and agreements with other free nations essential to our security and growth, we have a very articulate and respected voice invariably aligned with justice and the oppressed in the councils of the United Nations. We have established our international credit and acquired a name and prestige of distinction among the leading powers of the world. On top of all, as we celebrate today in common with the United States of America the glory of a Fourth of July rooted in a common liberal and libertarian tradition and in a joint experience in and for democracy consecrated in blood, the Philippine tricolor, wherever it is raised anywhere in the world, floats proudly high and dignified inspiring the respect and good will of all nations.

Strange as it may seem, only some critics at home would rob it of its magic wand. And not all is rosy to us. Today we face the prospect of extinguishment of our freedom by the lowering clouds of a ruthless imperialism—now in retreat in the West, but at its flood-tide in the East. We cannot afford to think that we, or any other free nation here, can remain free, can continue to advance towards plenty, and can preserve the peace if the countries around us now valiantly struggling to shake off old chains and to ward off new ones, fail to conserve their gains towards freedom until they fully attain it. Our answer to the threat of red imperialism and the new slavery is a real union of the peoples around the Pacific on the basis of common counsel and assistance in protecting and advancing freedom and peace, in facilitating the development of their resources for the benefit of their general population. To this our Republic feels bound to commit itself if it is to continue the pace of its progress since 1946 and to see its neighbors share the blessings of freedom and peace under a democratic system. Such a union should enable underdeveloped members to help themselves better through cooperation in the manner contemplated in President Truman's bold, new program of technical and material mutual aid.

We are favored by the fact that while our Republic may be envied, it is not feared. We do not envisage encroaching on our neighbors to insure the fulfillment of our program of total economic mobilization and social amelioration. We enjoy picking on each other at home to discover our limitations and test our virtues, proving how well we can stand the hazards of democracy.

If this is the epoch of democracy, as we have reason to believe it is, and if we are the unique outpost of democracy in this part of the world, as we are proud to know we are, we have, in this Republic of ours, achieved the basis for the spiritual inspiration that would set and keep the lights of democracy continually aglow in our part of the world.

Our Republic was born in an atmosphere of crisis and want, but now it is hitting its stride. It knows where it is going and how it is to get there. What emergencies it faces today are incidental passing pains artificially created by seasonal partisanship, and will disappear with the rains that follow the thunderclaps.

On this sacred clay, let us dedicate ourselves anew to the unfinished tasks before us. Let us pray the Almighty that our hearts and our minds may continue to be sensitive to the grace of His wisdom and guidance.

Because we have been singularly blessed in the first three years of complete freedom, I am confident that, as good and true Filipinos all, conscious of our country's heroic traditions, we shall continue to strive to be worthy of divine direction in our efforts to make our Republic strong and enduring. United and free, we shall continue to build it up into a dynamic and decisive factor—at home and abroad—for freedom, for good-will and for justice to all men.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Independence Day address of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, delivered at the Luneta on July 4, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(7), 2791-2796.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Message of President Quirino on the occasion of the 173rd anniversary of American Independence

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Addressed to U. S. President Harry S. Truman on the occasion of the 173rd Anniversary of American
Independence**

[Released on July 4, 1949]

Please accept, on this 173rd anniversary of American independence and the third of our own, the most cordial greetings and felicitations of the Republic of the Philippines and the Filipino people. My countrymen join me in wishing you and the American people continued strength, prosperity and vision to sustain your role of world leadership on which liberty-loving nations everywhere place their hopes for a life of expanding freedom, peace and justice.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Message of President Elpidio Quirino, addressed to U. S. President Harry S. Truman, on the occasion of the 173rd anniversary of American independence, July 4, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(7), 2791.

Ninth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Ninth Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Delivered on July 15, 1949]

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

Three live topics are occupying the mind of our people today: the most recent one is the visit of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek to the Philippines; the purely legalistic one is the exercise of the emergency powers of the President; and the hot one is the talk of revolution and secret formulas by desperate candidates.

The first topic—the Chiang Kai-shek visit—evoked worldwide attention to the proposed union of the Far Eastern countries and those bordering on the Pacific which are menaced by the onrush of Communism; the second raised the question of dictatorship in the Philippines; and the third, the ticklish question of collaboration with the Japanese.

It is most gratifying to observe that our general populace is taking active interest in the discussion of these topics. In the streets, in the restaurants, in the factories and even in the wharves, the cocher, the driver, the waiter, the laborer—all now talk of the Pacific Union, the emergency powers of the President, and the probable effect to the country if Mr. Avelino or Mr. Laurel or Mr. Quirino is elected President in the coming elections. This shows that our people are getting to see beyond purely parochial horizons. We had reason to drop the word “Islands” from the name of our country, simply calling our homeland “The Philippines.” The new name now signifies not only our spiritual unity but also our relations with our neighbors and the rest of the world. We are no longer isolated islands or a mere group of islands. We have become an integral part of the world.

I shall not elaborate on the collaboration issue because it is not only ticklish but delicate. Many say it is a dead issue. I think it is. My wonder is why some people are so afraid of the dead. Considering the rising temperature in the political pot, we should refrain from scaring the people with threats of revolution such as begot the collaboration issue. It would be safer perhaps to read the saga of the living than remember the valor and heroism of the dead. In any event, I recommend in all seriousness more caution, more coolness and more good nature in our political campaigns.

The question of the exercise of the emergency powers of the President being subjudice, I shall not interfere with the function of the court by discussing the constitutional points involved outside of the courtroom. But I must say that when I issued the executive orders authorizing the continuation of the general appropriations of last year, I did nothing but insure the continuity of the existing public services so as not to paralyze the normal functions of government, the Congress having failed during its last session to enact the necessary legislation for the purpose. This practice was authorized by the United States Congress under the Jones Act and during the American regime without even requiring the American chief executive to act or to issue any executive order, much less to submit it to the legislature for ratification or revocation in its next session. This action is also authorized by an act of our own legislature known as Commonwealth Act No. 671 requiring the President of the Philippines to submit his executive order thereon in the next session of the Congress for ratification or revocation.

Those who contest the validity of my executive orders would make my action appear as dictatorial, when it could not be so under the American regime. Was not the appropriation law which I continued an act of the legislature itself? Were not the services for which I set aside funds for their continuation all previously authorized by the Congress? What did the President dictate?

Even the necessary funds for the conduct of the coming presidential elections authorized in my other executive order, now being assailed also on the same ground, were the same amount included in the appropriation bill that Congress was ready to enact, but which was arrested in the conference committees upon adjournment. My point is,

why unnecessarily paralyze the functions of government or embarrass the administration with these court proceedings when the very law that authorizes the issuance of the executive orders in question stands in the statute books despite the efforts of some legislators to repeal it? The answer is politics, pure politics. This is evidenced by the fact that the petitioner to declare these executive orders null and void is the President of the Nacionalista Party himself, aided by other political adversaries of the administration. They are afraid that I would use the emergency powers for electioneering purposes. I have repeatedly made assurances, my fellow countrymen, and I want to assure you again, that I will not do it; I do not think I need to do it to win the elections.

I come now to the visit of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek of China. As you already know, the Generalissimo visited us last Sunday and stayed with me in Baguio for two days. He came in response to a previous invitation extended during the lifetime of President Roxas yet and reiterated by me through Minister, now Ambassador, Chen Chih-Ping in his last visit to the Generalissimo in Formosa. The Generalissimo's visit was unofficial and our conversations on various topics of common interest were purely informative and exploratory in nature.

In my conversations with him, I had the opportunity to learn from a first-hand source the present situation in China and also to apprise him as a neighbor of the situation obtaining in the Philippines. The conversations have become a matter not only of national but of world-wide interest.

A few of our people have expressed some fear about the implications and consequences of the initiative we took in having the recognized leader of Nationalist China come over for some frank but friendly conversations. This fear is partly to be explained, undoubtedly, either by the war atmosphere in China or by mere insufficient experience, and partly by pure political contrariness.

Our people should realize that we are faced by an active threat to our free institutions. If we are not going to do anything about it, nobody else will. No mere contrariness on the part of any political element, which would denounce us if we did not act as they are indeed denouncing us now that we are doing something, should discourage us from acting to protect and preserve our cherished way of life.

Some plan must be evolved to meet the impact of red dictatorship—a new imperialism and a new slavery. We conceived in the Philippines the new Filipino ideology based on our total economic mobilization as a means of checking communism in our land by insuring to our people a life of substance, of contentment, of peace, of happiness; for where these exist communism will not thrive.

There has to be a start made somewhere on the idea of uniting the peoples of Asia and the Pacific to achieve this common objective on the basis of mutuality and equality. There is need of coordinated full development of these nations in order to secure their stability and security. Thus, we explored the possibility of bringing together the peoples of the Far East in an effort to seek common counsel for the solution of our own internal problems and preserve our democratic institutions.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and myself, therefore, began thinking out loud—on how the countries in the Far East and in the Pacific could contain and counteract the common threat.

In my Fourth of July speech, I stated that our answer to the threat is a union of those countries in the Far East, as a measure of self-defense based on mutual cooperation for the economic, political and cultural development of the countries concerned, believing that only the full and coordinated development of these countries can effectively and permanently counteract the influence of Communism. China cannot well do her part in this regard at the moment, beset as she is with an internal armed conflict; her most direct approach to this problem is peculiarly her own—which, just now, is military. My only concern is to secure the necessary moral rearmament of the threatened countries of the Far East, to be achieved with the economic, political and cultural collaboration of the neighboring countries.

My original concept of a Pacific Union was predicated upon the independence and sovereignty of the peoples of Southeast Asia and the countries bordering the Pacific so that masters of their own destiny, they can concentrate

their attention to their full development as a contribution to world peace and security. I conceive this to be our greatest goal.

What could be the danger of such a movement? What could be the deleterious effect of Generalissimo Chiang-Kai-shek's visit in order to cooperate towards that end?

That Washington or London is cool to the idea of a Pacific union is the most natural thing in the world. After all, they already have their North Atlantic Pact. So perhaps they can afford to be cool. Not we of Asia and the Pacific. The fire of Communism is at our door, and it is absurd to imagine that to devise means to extirpate it is to play with it.

Isn't it natural that when there is a nearby conflagration the neighbors should immediately gettogether and think of measures that would protect themselves from the danger, especially if their close friends are either too far or are not ready to help them? Our means of protection may be limited and not immediately effective because it is largely economic and political development or only moral in effect. And we know that the difficulties are tremendous, but it is worth the try to save our lives, our free institutions— democracy itself. To fold our arms would be suicidal. To prepare for the worst is not only foresight but release from the paralysis of inaction superinduced by sheer animal fear. This is the essence of the proposed union.

Those of the West who are our friends and are genuinely interested in the preservation of the democratic way of life will, I am sure, have greater incentive to help us peoples of the East if we show that we are seriously exerting to help ourselves. And the best way to do so is to pool our unexhausted resources and find a common basis of exploiting them for the benefit not of one special nation but of all the member nations.

I see no other way of effecting the unification of the countries of the East to become an integral unit of the greater world union.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). The President's Ninth Monthly Radio Chat, 7 p.m., July 15, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(7), 2797-2801.

Address of President Quirino at the second commencement exercises of the Philippine College of Commerce and Business Administration

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the second commencement exercises of the Philippine College of Commerce and Business Administration**

[Delivered on July 31, 1949]

DEAR FRIENDS:

I welcome this opportunity to speak to our people through the graduates of the Philippine College of Commerce and Business Administration. The present local atmosphere, the nature of your training, and these fleet moments in our national history require that I speak in a businesslike manner, straight from the shoulder and with utmost clarity. The smooth routine compliments, the usual expressions of acknowledgment and obligation for this opportunity you have extended to me have to be set aside in my pardonable earnestness to spark you on the proper orientation that our country urgently needs at this hour.

Our Republic was born in self-reliance and we are out to build it on solid rock. Our program of action is well defined and concrete. It is based on the philosophy of total production in order to provide our people with a life of substance and security. While our efforts at research to work out the details of the program to fruition continue, we have stopped theorizing. Our goal is definite and we fully realize that its achievement will be long and tedious. But we have properly charted our course and we are on the march.

What we now need is the proper orientation of our people conducive to the execution of the high policies of the State as expressed in our program of economic development and social betterment. The fulfillment of our program does not rest alone on mere continued top-level discussions of policies. Nor is it enough that we set aside millions of pesos, as we have now, to implement our vast task and approach long-range targets. There must be a responsive, practical atmosphere to facilitate the concentration of our people's minds on our high objectives. Even the poorest seed, if sown in a well-prepared soil with care and attention, will not only germinate but will flourish and bear wholesome fruit. Government agencies, civic organizations, trade and business bodies, live elements all over the country, in the factories as well as in the farms, in the schools, colleges and universities, in centers of population as well as the remotest barrio communities, must cooperate. We must all be inspired to the realization of the importance of our nation's problems and enlist the active interest and participation of all the citizens of the country. All hands must lift the great burden that is the responsibility of this generation.

This institution from which you are graduating, conceived as one of the most constructive enterprises to help build our country on solid foundations, has a distinct role in this unique period of our national development. I say unique because while we are busy constructing within, there are extraneous forces seeking to undermine what is being built, in the false notion that a pattern they regard as exclusively their own is the God-ordained measure of salvation.

At this hour, we need a strong will and an alert mind, vigorous in construction and not merely vociferous in denunciation. Much is expected of this institution to develop the constructive spirit in young minds so that when they go out of these halls, as you go out today, they can justly assume their share of the responsibility. You have the greatest opportunity to help create a pattern of living consistent with pure national character and inspired aims. You are heirs to a precious heroic and liberal tradition. You are equipped to live in an era of rapid change, looked upon by your neighbors for emulation in the development of that pattern, hopeful of release from age-long exploitation, and increasingly sensible of security, freedom and justice.

Yes, you are at the bright hope of a new day, the judgment of whose promise lies in the enhancement of our people's productive power rather than in destructive endeavors. Our country needs skilled minds and hands to produce. We must not only develop our ingenuity and occupational skills to the fullest extent but a balanced personality. We have

learned from the last war the need for increased moral, cultural and economic education—an education that provides for work as well as play, for production as well as for consumption, for creation as well as appropriation. Thus, for our own purposes today, we must work more, produce more, create more. In raising our productivity, we will secure the abundance essential to social contentment, the attainment of freedom and security, and the constructive pursuit of peace.

Enterprise being the hallmark of your Alma Mater, I look to you to exemplify self-reliance in your future activities. God always helps those who do not disdain to help themselves within the sanctions of our free and Christian society. Take courage in advancing your ideas in the building of your country. You may be harassed and embarrassed on your way, for we mortals have the strange virtue of believing that one's own ideas or ideals alone are exclusively realizable. Be willing to submit yours to scrutiny and competition in the open market for progress. If you do not get the hearing that you think you deserve, or if they are slow of implementation, you must remember that what is being built for permanence takes a good deal of patience, time and sweat. All good things are hard to achieve. If you must make strictures about the existing things, be sure at least that you are ready with something better and more practical to replace them. Merely to pull things down is not your mission and it may only create a vacuum for possibly greater evils. In any event, you must, have the nobility and humility to acknowledge a good turn, an honest achievement, or an admittedly obvious success of even your bitterest competitors. This is an invariable mark of a gentleman and constructive, honest citizen. This new era demands a positive and constructive outlook and we must carry on with greater patience, inspired by intellectual honesty in our highest endeavors—the basis of all manner of individual and collective integrity and respect.

Let us drive away from our minds and our hearts any feeling of insincerity in our dealings with our fellow men, principally in our approach of the serious problems of State. Intrigues and ill-wishings are the greatest deterrents to our progress and stability at this moment. Envy, mortification, and frustration also constitute public enemies. Many other psychological sins are beclouding our clear sky. But the worst curse is the sacrifice of our national interests for the sake of passing political advantage. God grant that, with the proper indoctrination in our constructive endeavors and the assiduous training of our soul in the ways of morality and justice, we may be saved from destruction! I cannot expect otherwise if we have this appropriate orientation. I have no doubt that the graduates of this institution will survive the supreme test in the individual and collective evaluation of the human and national equation.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Address of President Quirino at the second commencement exercises of the Philippine College of Commerce and Business Administration, July 31, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(7), 2805-2808.

**Address of President Quirino before the Senate of the United States, August 9, 1949 Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the Senate of the United States**

[Released on August 9, 1949]

OUR MOST URGENT PROBLEM

In this address delivered before the Senate of the United States on August 9, 1949, President Elpidio Quirino stressed that the most urgent problem that confronts the Philippines and the other free countries of Asia is the problem of security.

“Asia with its vast population which accounts for more than half that of the world and with its incalculable resources, cannot and ought not to be lost to communism by default. And yet this is bound to happen unless something of the courage and vision that went into the forging of the democratic defenses in Europe is applied to the forging of a similar system of defense in Asia,” President Quirino warned.

Tom Connally, of Texas, chairman of the senate foreign relations committee, referred to this speech as “splendid and inspiring—one of the finest speeches by a foreign Chief of State delivered before Congress in years.”

Scott Lucas, Democratic leader, said: “The speech was one of the most appealing and best delivered speeches I’ve heard in a long time. It came close to the Churchill classic.”

John Ree, chairman of the house of foreign relations committee, who heard both speeches of President Quirino said:

“President Quirino proved himself a statesman. His speech was splendid. I only wish he had given us in the house as full an explanation of his views on the Pacific Union as he gave the senate.”

“He seemed to have gotten away with it,” was the comment made by a states department official.

Mr. VICE PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

FIFTEEN years ago in this very hall, I took oath as a member of the federal bar. It was this august body of the Senate that, for several months before the Tydings-McDuffie Act was converted into law on March 24, 1934, I had also frequently visited as ranking member of the last Philippine Independence Mission headed by our friend, the late President Manuel L. Quezon, to watch developments in the discussions of the provisions of the bill, in the original drafting of which, I now recall with pride, I cooperated with my dear friend, Senator Tydings.

I have come as a bidden guest of your Government. I am happy to report that America’s handiwork in the Orient has justified its existence as the first English-speaking republic in the East. When Commodore Dewey entered Manila Bay and God gave victory to his arms against the Spanish fleet, the American people little thought, and the Filipinos thought less, that 50 years afterwards America would assume a role, and the Filipinos an obligation, unparalleled in the history of liberty-loving peoples. In spite of herself, America assumed the responsibility of leadership in the extension of freedom and security to the peoples in that part of the globe. And the Philippines, correspondingly and in deep gratitude, is under obligation of extending the democratic way of life, as richly enjoyed by the Filipino people, in our neighborhood and elsewhere.

Today the Republic of the Philippines stands as a monument to the great American dream of freedom—the freedom to which the American nation was born and by which it lives, and which it has shared increasingly with the peoples of other lands.

I have recalled this little bit of history because time presses for a redefinition of the relations between the United States and the Philippines. I speak of the Philippines in a very special sense, not as just one more State with which this great Republic maintains certain ties, but as a vital outpost of freedom and democracy in our side of the world—the very freedom which you taught us to treasure and of which you are today the great champion and defender.

How far we have proved ourselves worthy of freedom, the whole world knows. And the world will know that we are determined to fight for freedom so long as Bataan and Corregidor exist. So far as we are concerned the history of our unremitting struggle for liberty during the last four hundred years has predetermined our future course, should our freedom be menaced from any quarter.

Our Republic is only three years old. It was born under exceedingly difficult and trying circumstances, drawing in its birth not only the blood and tears of my countrymen but of yours, as well. Our faith in democracy is being tested most severely. But I ask you, remembering the history of your own original thirteen countries that formed the Union, to believe that the Republic of the Philippines will emerge from these troubled times stronger in its faith in the soundness and incompatible advantages of the democratic way. The Filipino people have found in the democracy you have implanted in our land the fullness of life and enjoyment of its blessings, and they will not surrender them in exchange for the false Utopian promises of any totalitarian system.

But today the most urgent problem that confronts the Philippines and the other free countries of Asia is the problem of security. It is, in fact, the principal problem that besets all those States that lie athwart the advancing tide of communism.

The Philippines rejoices with the rest of the free world that there has at least been erected a mighty bulwark against the advance of communism in Europe. That sector of the globe has been secured and the peace of the world, to that extent, has been stabilized.

However, it is obvious to everyone that the task of securing our free world is only half done. No one who realizes the extent of the menace to which Asia is exposed—the threat to Korea, the infiltration into Viet Nam, the debacle in China—can well afford to rest at ease now that the North Atlantic Pact is in full force and effect.

Asia with its vast population which accounts for more than half that of the world and with its incalculable resources, cannot and ought not to be lost to communism by default. And yet this is bound to happen unless something of the courage and vision that went into the forging of the democratic defenses in Europe is applied to the forging of a similar system of defense in Asia.

My concern over this problem has led me into taking the first steps towards this end. I realize fully that there are strong reasons why the United States may not too readily welcome the obligations that its active participation in this project would entail. I have not, therefore, made such participation a necessary condition for the initiation of the project itself.

But I feel very strongly that the free countries of Southeast Asia and the Pacific must themselves start the movement for closer cooperation in furtherance of their common interests in the political, economic, and cultural fields. No military commitments are contemplated at the moment. The reason is simple. The countries concerned have presently no armies, navies, or air forces to muster under the terms of a military alliance. Most of them have but newly emerged into independent nationhood and are faced with grave domestic problems. They count with no industrial base of sufficient strength or magnitude to support a major military undertaking and, by constitutional mandate, the Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy. Above all, it is my feeling that we have time in the still free countries of Asia to halt the advance of communism by non-military means.

Our problem is therefore basically economics. Asia must properly feed and clothe and house its millions, and raise their living standards. Technical aid is needed as well as capital to tap and develop its agricultural and industrial potentialities. Fortunately, President Truman's four-point program and the United Nations' project of technical assistance to under-developed countries give promise of aid to come.

We realize that, in the end, our salvation must come from self help, and that the advantages of self help will be enhanced tenfold if, as we now propose to do in the projected Pacific Union, we can convert self-help to mutual help.

This is the fundamental aim and purpose of the Pacific Union: To forge stronger ties of economic cooperation and collaboration between the free Countries of Asia in order to enhance their prosperity, to hasten the march of self-government in order to afford concentration on internal development, and to preserve their freedom. If, after the Union has been organized and the modes of collaboration have been determined, the United States and the other democracies should desire to offer such help as should lie in their power to give, it need hardly be said that the offer will not only be warmly received but justly blessed. I am confident that the member States of the Union will gratefully accept the renewal in peace and for peaceful ends of an alliance that was forged in the last war for the sake of a common victory.

The time runs short and the margin of our common security grows narrower each day. As President of the Republic of the Philippines, I consider it my supreme responsibility in this perilous hour to call upon our friends everywhere, but especially our friends in America, not to tarry too long in the redefinition of fundamental attitudes towards Asia to which I have earlier referred. May I venture to hope that this process, which may well determine the fate of more than half of mankind in the next thousand years, will be a calm, deliberate movement towards clarity, vigor, and resolution.

I am grateful to the Members of the Senate for this singular opportunity to say a few words from this mighty rostrum. I have spoken with a degree of frankness that might possibly sound somewhat unusual coming from almost any other guest of this powerful Body. But for this I invoke the memory of our long association in the common endeavor of freedom and democracy that culminated in the establishment of the Republic of the Philippines. I invoke also the bitter sacrifices that the American and the Filipino peoples endured together in the recent war for freedom in the Pacific as sufficient justification for the grave concern that I have here expressed on behalf of that self same freedom.

That freedom is in peril for more than half the population of the globe. Only the blind will say that the menace does not concern America, because the history of the last two world wars show all too clearly that this great democracy cannot remain unconcerned wherever and whenever the survival of free men in a free world is at stake.

*Source: **The New Philippine Ideology***

Speech of President Quirino before the House of Representatives of the United States of America

**Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the House of Representatives of the United States of America**

[Delivered on August 9, 1949]

TO FIGHT ON AMERICA'S SIDE

IT IS a rare honor and privilege for any man to appear before this august body of the distinguished representatives of the American people. Thirty years ago I occupied a seat in the House of Representatives of my country. This fact makes me feel at home in your midst. As the head of a new State that owes its existence to American wisdom and idealism, I am filled with mingled feelings of gratitude and humility because of the special circumstances that have brought me to this mighty rostrum.

The Independence Act you passed in 1934 as our charter of liberty has well directed our course as a nation. During the transition period between 1934 and the actual grant of independence on July 4, 1946, events of the most far-reaching significance to the world transpired. That period provided the greatest test ever served on our people and it revealed to us that quality of the freedom that we had been fighting for, and to America and the world at large, the character of the nation that has become its recipient and beneficiary.

The whole world has plunged into the most destructive war known in history. The Filipinos bled with the rest of humanity in that titanic struggle. Thank God, we have survived. Instead of succumbing to desperation, following the untold devastation of our country and the decimation of our population, we have come out stronger, fortified in the blessings of democracy and freedom. We have risen from our prostration disposed to anticipate and face the dangers of another possible world conflict. And we are determined to carry on and to fight to the last man on the side of America if freedom, our freedom and your freedom, should ever again be menaced and the democratic way of life imperiled.

Immediately after the liberation of our country in 1945, we thought that the Philippines could not be rebuilt in less than ten years, that it would take much longer for us to be able to stand on our own feet. But I can say with pardonable pride that the stride we have made during the last three years has more than eloquently vindicated our capacity to bear our burdens and obligations as a free and independent people.

While many countries in the world are still at a loss to reconstruct or rehabilitate themselves, bewildered in the face of uncertainties produced by their troubled surroundings, the Philippines today stands in the midst of a most distressed region as one stable unit, a veritable haven of many people in the Far East whose liberties have been threatened.

We have been concentrating our attention on our internal development. We have not lost a single moment and opportunity to enhance the stabilization of our economy. We have adopted a new ideology based on total economic mobilization of our country as a means of providing our people a fuller life of substance and contentment, in our determined endeavor to improve our living standards and in that manner contain and counteract the onrush of a totalitarian system battering down the doors of our neighbors.

We thank America for the opportunities given us to develop ourselves and our country, and for the assistance and guidance we know the United States is disposed to lend to us in our future undertakings. The new Republic of the Philippines was born in self-reliance and we are determined to build it on solid rock. We cannot do otherwise if we are to deserve the distinction of being America's original handiwork in the sphere of freedom in Asia.

I have come to your country in furtherance of mutual understanding between your country and mine—for the preservation not only of freedom and prosperity but also of the peace of the world in our part of the globe. I am positive of your concern in this regard. I am emboldened by the fact that President Truman has graciously invited me to have an opportunity of presenting our side of that understanding.

I hope that this mightiest body of legislators in the world will have timely and effective cooperation in our efforts to achieve the rich promise of that understanding, and enable us to contribute in our modest way to the fulfillment of the high mission of the United States in the advancement and preservation of world peace and security to all liberty-loving peoples. This has become an important phase of our Philippine foreign policy. It has been inspired no less by a deep sense of obligation that we owe to this great country that has given us the freedom which I know America will do her best to help protect and develop.

My country is determined to succeed. My people are confident that you will continue to extend them every possible support to succeed. Your people and mine, by a fluke of destiny, have become partners in a most glorious adventure which it will be to your interest, as well as to that of the entire world, to prosecute towards increasing fulfillment.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Speech of President Quirino before the Senate of the United States of America
Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the Senate of the United States of America

[Released on August 9, 1949]

OUR MOST URGENT PROBLEM: SECURITY

Mr. VICE PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

FIFTEEN years ago in this very hall, I took the oath as a member of the federal bar. It was this august body of the Senate that, for several months before the Tydings-McDuffie Act was converted into law on March 24, 1934, I had also frequently visited as ranking member of the last Philippine Independence Mission headed by our friend, the late President Manuel L. Quezon, to watch developments in the discussions of the provisions of the bill, in the original drafting of which, I now recall with pride, I cooperated with my dear friend, Senator Tydings.

I have come as a bidden guest of your Government. I am happy to report that America's handiwork in the Orient has justified its existence as the first English-speaking republic in the East. When Commodore Dewey entered Manila Bay and God gave victory to his arms against the Spanish fleet, the American people little thought, and the Filipinos thought less, that 50 years afterwards America would assume a role, and the Filipinos an obligation, unparalleled in the history of liberty-loving peoples. In spite of herself, America assumed the responsibility of leadership in the extension of freedom and security to the peoples in that part of the globe. And the Philippines, correspondingly and in deep gratitude, is under obligation of extending the democratic way of life, as richly enjoyed by the Filipino people, to our neighborhood and elsewhere.

Today the Republic of the Philippines stands as a monument to the great American dream of freedom—the freedom to which the American nation was born and by which it lives, and which it has shared increasingly with the peoples of other lands.

I have recalled this little bit of history because time presses for a redefinition of the relations between the United States and the Philippines. I speak of the Philippines in a very special sense, not as just one more State with which this great Republic maintains certain ties, but 'as a vital outpost of freedom and democracy in our side of the world—the very freedom which you taught us to treasure and of which you are today the great champion and defender.

How far we have proved ourselves worthy of freedom, the world knows. And the world will know that we are determined to fight for freedom so long as Bataan and Corregidor exist. So far as we are concerned the history of our unremitting struggle for liberty during the last four hundred years has predetermined our future course, should our freedom be menaced from any quarter.

Our Republic is only three years old. It was born under exceedingly difficult and trying circumstances, drawing in its birth not only the blood and tears of my countrymen but of yours, as well. Our faith in democracy is being tested most severely. But I ask you, remembering the history of your own original thirteen States that formed the Union, to believe that the Republic of the Philippines will emerge from these troubled times stronger in its faith in the soundness and incomparable advantages of the democratic way. The Filipino people have found in the democracy you have implanted in our land the fullness of life and enjoyment of its blessings, and they will not surrender them in exchange for the false Utopian promises of any totalitarian system.

But today the most urgent problem that confronts the Philippines and the other free countries of Asia is the problem of security. It is, in fact, the principal problem that besets all those States that He athwart the advancing tide of communism.

The Philippines rejoices with the rest of the free world that there has at least been erected a mighty bulwark against the advance of communism in Europe. That sector of the globe has been secured and the peace of the world, to that extent, has been stabilized.

However, it is obvious to everyone that the task of securing our free world is only half done. No one who realizes the extent of the menace to which Asia is exposed—the threat to Korea, the infiltration into Viet Nam, the debacle in China—can well afford to rest at ease now that the North Atlantic Pact is in full force and effect.

Asia with its vast population which accounts for more than half that of the world and with its incalculable resources, cannot and ought not to be lost to communism by default. And yet this is bound to happen unless something of the courage and vision that went into the forging of the democratic defenses in Europe is applied to the forging of a similar system of defense in Asia.

My concern over this problem has led me into taking the first steps towards this end. I realize fully that there are strong reasons why the United States may not too readily welcome the obligations that its active participation in this project would entail. I have not, therefore, made such participation a necessary condition for the initiation of the project itself.

But I feel very strongly that the free countries of Southeast Asia and the Pacific must themselves start the movement for closer cooperation in furtherance of their common interests in the political, economic, and cultural fields. No military commitments are contemplated at the moment. The reason is simple. The countries concerned have presently no armies, navies, or air forces to muster under the terms of a military alliance. Most of them have but newly emerged into independent nationhood and are faced with grave domestic problems. They count with no industrial base of sufficient strength or magnitude to support a major military undertaking and, by constitutional mandate, the Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy. Above all, it is my feeling that we have time in the still free countries of Asia to halt the advance of communism by non-military means.

Our problem is therefore basically economic. Asia must properly feed and clothe and house its millions, and raise their living standards. Technical aid is needed as well as capital to tap and develop its agricultural and industrial potentialities. Fortunately, President Truman's four-point program and the United Nations' project of technical assistance to under-developed countries give promise of aid to come.

We realize that, in the end, our salvation must come from self-help, and that the advantages of self-help will be enhanced tenfold if, as we now propose to do in the projected Pacific Union, we can convert self-help to mutual help.

This is the fundamental aim and purpose of the Pacific Union: To forge stronger ties of economic cooperation and collaboration among the free countries of Asia in order to enhance their prosperity, to hasten the march of self-government in order to afford concentration on internal development, and to preserve their freedom. If, after the Union has been organized and the modes of collaboration have been determined, the United States and the other democracies should desire to offer such help as should lie in their power to give, it need hardly be said that the offer would not only be warmly received but justly blessed. I am confident that the member States of the Union will gratefully accept the renewal, in peace and for peaceful ends, of an alliance that was forged in the last war for the sake of a common victory.

The time runs short and the margin of our common security grows narrower each day. As President of the Republic of the Philippines, I consider it my supreme responsibility in this perilous hour to call upon our friends everywhere, but especially our friends in America, not to tarry too long in the redefinition of fundamental attitudes towards Asia to which I have earlier referred. May I venture to hope that this process, which may well determine the fate of more than half of mankind in the next thousand years, will be a calm, deliberate movement towards clarity, vigor, and resolution.

I am grateful to the members of the Senate for this singular opportunity to say a few words from this mighty rostrum. I have spoken with a degree of frankness that might possibly sound somewhat unusual coming from almost

any other guest of this powerful body. But for this I invoke the memory of our long association in the common endeavor of freedom and democracy that culminated in the establishment of the Republic of the Philippines. I invoke also the bitter sacrifices that the American and the Filipino peoples endured together in the recent war for freedom in the Pacific as sufficient justification for the grave concern that I have here expressed on behalf of that self same freedom.

That freedom is in peril for more than half the population of the globe. Only the blind will say that the menace does not concern America, because the history of the last two world wars shows all too clearly that this great democracy cannot remain unconcerned wherever and whenever the survival of free men in a free world is at stake.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1949). *The new Philippine ideology*. Manila : Bureau of Printing.

Congratulatory Message of President Quirino on the 140th independence anniversary of the Republic of Ecuador

**Congratulatory Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the 140th independence anniversary of the Republic of Ecuador**

[Delivered on August 10, 1949]

Upon instructions of His Excellency, President Quirino, who is now in the United States, I have the honor to convey to Your Excellency, the President's felicitations and best wishes both to the government and people of your Republic on the occasion of the 140th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Ecuador which you celebrate today.

Please accept the expression of our profound sympathy for the major catastrophe which befell your Republic and our fervent hopes for your rapid recovery.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Congratulatory message from the Republic of the Philippines on the 140th independence anniversary of the Republic of Ecuador, August 10, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(8), 3265.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Toast of President Quirino during the formal dinner in honor of President Truman

**Toast
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
During the formal dinner in honor of President Truman**

[Delivered at the Statler Hotel, Washington, August 10, 1949]

President Quirino's toast to President Truman during the formal dinner in honor of the U. S. Chief Executive at the Statler Hotel, Washington, August, 10, 1949, during which occasion President Quirino presented to President Truman an oil portrait of the later by Fernando Amorsolo:

I have travelled 10,000 miles to be able to present in person the likeness of the man who has a deep love for the Philippine people and whose friendship we now enjoy. He is a true friend, a true man.

The only way we can enjoy his friendship is to wish that God keep him in health. I may go home empty handed but I am sure I will not go home empty hearted. I invite you, gentleman, to join me in wishing the President of the United States continued health.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). President Quirino's toast to President Truman during the formal dinner in honor of the U. S. Chief Executive at the Statler Hotel, Washington, August, 10, 1949, during which occasion President Quirino presented to President Truman an oil portrait of the later by Fernando Amorsolo. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(8), 3264.

Message of President Quirino on his gratitude to President Truman

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On his gratitude to President Truman**

[Delivered on August 10, 1949]

I arrived safely at four o'clock this afternoon. My first thought is to reiterate my deepest appreciation of your personal concern and that of other officials of the Government of the United States over my safety during the whole trip. I shall never forget the unprecedented hospitality and cordiality shown to me by the people of the United States, most especially your personal attention and high regard. I assure you, Mr. President, that my people have an increasing moral obligation to America for this manifestation of esteem and distinction accorded to your daughter republic. With my highest respect and kindest regards to Mrs. Truman.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). President Quirino's message of gratitude to President Truman, August 10, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(8), 3257.

**Address of President Quirino upon being conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws Address
of**

**His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines**

Upon being conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws

[Delivered at Fordham University, New York, August 12, 1949]

SPIRITUAL IMPERATIVES

FATHER RECTOR, MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY, MY FRIENDS:

Out of a full heart I thank the Faculty of this great University for the high honor which they have today so graciously conferred upon me and, through my humble person, upon the Filipino people.

I came before you from a journey across the Pacific: from Manila, halfway around the world.

More than four hundred years ago, a bold adventurer crossed the Pacific from Spain by way of the New World. His name was Ferdinand Magellan, and his journey ended in the Philippines.

Magellan carried in his intrepid ships the power of the West; he had gone forth to extend the dominion of imperial Spain over the rich archipelagos of the Eastern Seas. But with the soldiers of Spain came also her missionaries, and these made the more lasting conquest.

Some four centuries later, the Sword of Castille was broken, and her regime in the Philippines passed into history. The Cross of Christ remains. It stands in the center of every Filipino town and village, not as the relic of a past conquest but as the symbol of an indestructible kingdom—the Kingdom of God.

Under its benign shade, a nation came into being, waxed strong, and finally attained, through an unselfish act of a similarly inspired nation, her independence as the Republic of the Philippines: the only Christian state in the Far East.

As President of that Republic, I am happy to reaffirm on this felicitous occasion my people's gratitude to the people of America, and our warm fraternal regard for those of this country with whom we are bound by the special ties of our common religion.

Unlike Magellan, I have not come with power to conquer, which we have not, or with missionary zeal to convert you to a new faith, which is not ours alone.

I have come humbly to bear witness to the fact that the ancient faith of our Fathers stands securely in our Islands, a cherished heritage from the past and an unfailing source of inspiration, guidance and strength amid our share of the trials which the war and its aftermath of conflict have visited upon most of the nations of the world.

The vicissitudes that we have stood likewise through the various other epochs of our national existence have imposed a salutary discipline on our souls. They have made us spiritually stronger. Thus we have survived more than three hundred years of misrule. Thus we have emerged from the Philippine Revolution of 1896 and the ordeals of the Spanish-American War with increased power in our resolve to lift our country out of obscurantism and servitude. Our spiritual resources have thus grown with every adversity and have saved us as a people time and again through many a peril and crisis.

In the gathering darkness that now blankets large areas of Asia and the Far East, the faith of the Filipino people stands out, a beacon to friends of like mind and spirit, a warning to others that whoever seeks to subvert or destroy our liberties risks shipwreck on the rock of our determination to defend our freedom.

With the support and comradeship of friendly peoples if possible, alone if necessary, we are resolved to resist with all our strength the evil thing that is now striving to enslave men and nations under a tyranny more ruthless than any other in history.

Mindful of our weakness in material power, we nevertheless take this stand because there is no other course that we, as a Christian people living in a democratic state, can in honor and conscience pursue. As the central crisis of our time moves ever closer to its inevitable climax, we perceive more and more clearly that there can be no practicable compromise, no possible middle course, between us and those who would undermine and overthrow our way of life.

We are entering the stage when the defense of our freedom becomes synonymous with the defense of our faith. This is as it should be, for it is implicit in the very nature of Christianity and democracy that political liberty cannot exist or flourish unless it stands four-square upon the bedrock of religious freedom.

All the freedoms that together constitute the soul of the truly democratic society have their origins in the Christian precepts on the essential dignity and the infinite value of the human person. Our traditional respect for the equality of men, as well as our developing concept of a world community of nations based on a new order of justice and equality for all, are but extensions in the social and political spheres of our Christian belief in a brotherhood of men equally cherished by God and each deserving of a measure of His infinite love and justice. Christian doctrine is the fountainhead that nourishes the life and growth of our free institutions.

It was no accident that the Philippines should have developed as it did into a working democracy in the Western tradition. The faith of the Filipino people, their Christian training and traditions centering around the concept of equality and brotherhood among men, provided an excellent situation for the healthy and ordered growth of the democratic institutions implanted by America in the course of her nearly five decades of enlightened and progressive sovereignty over the Philippines.

Today, in common with their sister democracies in Asia and other parts of the world, the Filipino people find their hard-won freedom increasingly menaced by the aggressive and violent expansion of a ruthless, fanatical, political faith. And like all the other Christian peoples faced by this mortal danger, they are impelled by the nature of things to turn to their own faith for strength and sustenance in the struggle.

The subverters of order and democracy understand perfectly the vital, indissoluble link between faith and freedom. Invariably they try, sometimes openly, sometimes under-handedly, always with ruthlessness and energy, to pervert or destroy religious freedom as a prelude to the total extinction of civil liberties, as one might undermine the cornerstone of a building in order to demolish completely the whole edifice.

On the other hand we seek in every way possible to safeguard and enlarge the scope of religious freedom, knowing that without it all the other freedoms would languish and eventually wither away, like trees rooted out of the soil and cut off from the life-giving air.

Since Communism is not a purely ideological menace, the physical defense raised against the aggressive threat of its armies and the subversive activities of its fifth columns, will necessarily loom large in any scheme to contain and ultimately to master it. With American help and under American leadership, the countries of Western Europe have gone to great lengths to counteract the danger of further expansion westward.

In Asia and the Far East, we have ourselves taken the initiative in trying to move the free nations threatened by this totalitarian advance to some form of effective mutual help and common action.

But it is in the internal renewal of Christianity and democracy that the best hope of conquering Communism lies, for it is only by establishing the superiority of the democratic way of life that we can prove with finality the fallacy and the emptiness of the Communist challenge and promise.

In this great task of reform and renewal, America and the Philippines have a special responsibility—America as the leader of the Christian states of the West, the Philippines by virtue of its status as the only Christian nation in the Far East.

It is a task that requires the highest vision and statesmanship, and the greatest measure of courage enterprise and self-sacrifice. As we think of this task, and all that it involves, it behooves us to meet the urgency of strengthening the spiritual values that lie at the foundation of a better world order which should be increasingly responsive to our common aspiration. We have them all in our rich Christian heritage—humility and penitence, goodwill and charity, and a courageous faith.

The last war, or any war for that matter, has generated a good deal of pride and self-complacency in the hearts of the victors. We should seek restoration to the grace of humility if we are to build for permanence and peace. We must realize a measure of responsibility for the conditions that have bred hate, pride and violence in the relations of men and of nations and have committed the world to the recent unprecedented holocaust that hit all of the human race.

Our profession of the Christian faith will avail us nothing if we keep vindictiveness and hate in our hearts. That great Catholic writer, G. K. Chesterton, has well said that “hell hath no fury like a non-combatant.” We should check up on ourselves as to how much of authentic goodwill that knows the welfare of each, mighty or humble, to be dependent on the welfare of all, we really can claim to be existent in us. We should determine and raise the measure of recognition on the part of all peoples of the rights of others. We should be sure that we fully believe in a power that makes for justice and righteousness.

Our national experience in spiritual growth and power we must continually endeavor to achieve as individuals, if we are to stand the subversion of our cherished way and frustrate those who depend on spreading hate and chaos and violence to secure their march to power.

In other words, we must be prepared to fight the forces that make for hate and communism in our individual lives first. We must know something of self-conquest, the mastery of those intransigent personal impulses which would betray our loyalties to a Divine Power.

We must subdue our pride, our selfishness, our ill-will, our unbelief. Religion provides us the spiritual weapons in this task of self-conquest that alone can make us invincible in fighting for freedom and justice not only for our country but for others as well. The great moral influence over our people of the wife of one of our greatest Filipino leaders, Mrs. Aurora Quezon, was derived from this source of strength and power. In the tragedy that removed her precious presence from our midst, her only married daughter, Zenaida Quezon-Buencamino, was able to bear her loss, in the death of her young husband as well, upon knowing that, as he breathed his last, he remembered not only to call her name but to invoke God. The faith that her mother had was reborn and renewed in Zenaida to make her self-dependent and to strengthen her resolve to serve others, instead of bewailing her personal loss.

Such an example recalls vividly the victories that our people have had in adversity, and their consequent growth in spiritual strength constitutes a definite encouragement to us to succeed in our individual efforts towards self-conquest. It proves our capacity to develop the inner resources we need to combat the major threat of our time internally as well as externally.

Thus we must look to our faith, the courageous faith that can level the mountains of hate and violence that a totalitarian system now on a rampage has raised up among men and nations, the faith on which human freedom and an enduring peace can rest securely under just law in our troubled world.

It represents the spiritual imperatives of our time, and we must rise to their challenge adequately if we are to build a better order worthy of the loyalty of succeeding generations.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). Spiritual Imperatives. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(8), 3266-3270.

Tenth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Tenth Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Delivered in the KYA Studios, Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, California, beamed to the Philippines by RCA,
August 15, 1949]

I am speaking from San Francisco, California, ten thousand miles away from home. I have the strange feeling that the farther I am in distance the closer I am to my people at home. I now believe in the poem that absence makes the heart grow fonder and more tender.

I should have waited until I return to the Philippines to make a report of my activities in the United States, but I do not wish to break the regularity of my monthly chat on the 15th of the month. Besides, I am very eager to let you know that I have not come to this country in vain.

The cordial and enthusiastic reception accorded me by President Truman personally and his assurances of continued interest and concern of his Government and people of the welfare of our nation and people, coming, as it has come from the lips of the mightiest ruler of the world today, are mostly reassuring of the beneficial relations which have existed between the two peoples and governments heretofore.

I was received in Washington as no other head of state was ever received in that city so far, the President of the United States going out of his way to receive me at the airport upon my arrival, and seeing me off at the same airport when I left for New York three days later.

The two Houses of Congress of the United States received me separately. I have been given an opportunity to address them separately with all solemnity and attentive consideration surpassing all my expectations. Both the Washington public as well as the press have been hospitable, responsive and generous. Thus, official and non-official Washington accorded me the most distinguished and special honor vouchsafing the best esteem in which America regards our new Republic.

I have had the great opportunity of discussing all matters raised separately with President Truman, the Vice-President and President of the Senate, Mr. Barkley, Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr. Rayburn, and Secretary Dean Acheson, as well as other heads of departments concerned with my mission to the United States. They have all been attentive and, in general, responsive to my mission's purposes.

In New York, I was received with utmost enthusiasm and cordiality by Mayor O'Dwyer and other city officials, The public reception accorded me there, although not more distinguished than that in Washington., was even more spectacular and impressive than the one accorded me in Washington.

All these public demonstrations are fair manifestations of the high regard in which America holds her daughter Republic in the Orient.

I have also been honored by the Fordham University, a Catholic institution in New York, with the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, conferred upon me by recommendation of Cardinal Spellman and the faculty of the university.

During all these ceremonies and in the midst of the high honors accorded me, I have not forgotten our native land. In fact, in accepting them and in enjoying the hospitality of the great American nation, I did it only in behalf of our people and our country in whose name I have come to this country.

I shall tell you more in detail the result of my mission to Washington upon my return to our country. I am happy that nothing untoward happened at home during my absence. I wish you will keep that ordinary state of affairs all the time. The United States is proud that we have been able to establish a stable government, a government that has been prepared by American genius and generous attention. Would to God that it will continue to so exist. I am very anxious to see you all soon.

Two more days I will be in Manila, and I hope to be seeing you in good health, confident that you and I will again not only be together but cooperate in the continuation of the good record we have established ever since we inaugurated our Republic on July 4, 1946. Until then, good night. Thank you.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). The President's Tenth Monthly Radio Chat, delivered in the KYA Studios, Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, California, 6:00 a.m., August 15, 1949, beamed to the Philippines by RCA. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(8), 3270-3272.

Condolence Message of President Quirino on the death of Justice Gregorio Perfecto

**Condolence Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the death of Justice Gregorio Perfecto**

[Sent aboard the PAL flagship *Manila*, August 17, 1949]

FOR SECRETARY EVANGELISTA:

Please transmit to Justice Perfecto's family:

“Deeply shocked by report of Justice Perfecto's passing. A colorful and intransigent personality, he led a varied career of public service that often needed any and every current administration into more intensive efforts for the advancement of social justice and the common welfare. Secretary Pedrosa, Speaker Yulo, and the rest of my party join me in tendering heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Perfecto and all of the family. Regards.”

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). President Quirino's message of condolence on the death of Justice Gregorio Perfecto, sent aboard the PAL flagship *Manila*, August 17, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(8), 3272.

Speech of President Quirino at the birthday anniversary program for President Manuel L. Quezon

**Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the birthday anniversary program for on President Manuel L. Quezon**

[Delivered in Quezon City, August 19, 1949]

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

There is no place like home is not a mere fancy of the poet. You have to be away from home to be struck by the force of this old familiar sentiment. We yield to it in life, we accept it in death. I have rushed home from a strenuous American journey to be with you this morning in obedience to this feeling. The mortal remains of the Father of his country have found their final resting place in the soil of his motherland because of this compulsion. And I know I would be most unhappy if I did not join you today in our homeland in the celebration of his birthday anniversary and dedicate ourselves anew to the task that gave meaning to his life and to our national existence.

The success of our recent mission to America is due in great part to the tremendous fund of respect, friendship and goodwill that President Quezon had built up for our country abroad in his lifetime. Wherever we turned, we stood to benefit from the grace of this fortunate inheritance. I have no doubt that we can continue to be blessed by it if we take care not to squander it, if we continue to prove to America and the world that we are worthy of the Father of his Country who exemplified self-respect, self-reliance, love of country and of freedom.

We have brought home to the American people once again of their special relation to us, as largely developed and nurtured by Manuel Quezon. Our American visit has renewed it and strengthened it beyond measure. The American people, by the warmth and sincerity of their hospitality, have increased our trust a hundredfold. Our own countrymen, by the warmth of their welcome on our Return, have unmistakably indicated common ratification and appreciation of this renewal and enhancement of mutual respect and cooperation. No development can be more appropriate as we pay homage to the man who in peace and in war, sealed this special relation for our people.

On this his 71st birthday anniversary, it is my greatest pride to report and my greatest joy to affirm before his great spirit that we have been loyal to his vision— his vision of a people devoted to liberty and the ways of democracy, of a people imbued with a lofty, incorruptible sense of obligation to preserve and advance them, not only at home but among our neighbors. We have gone some ways since he left us. We shall continue to move forward.

We take this occasion to reconsecrate ourselves to this vision. We are renewing our solemn covenant with his memory that we will enrich what we have inherited from him. We shall pass on to our children and all subsequent generations a heritage that bears the immortal mark of our great leader—justice for the common man and the expanding fulfillment of his gifts and potentialities in the service of his fellows.

We pledge to continue to do justly to every man, to walk humbly with God, and to develop our patrimony of freedom and the democratic way until every citizen of our country, until every inhabitant of our good earth, may share their benedictions. This is our strongest armor in defense of our common cherished traditions, of our free institutions. With this, we are determined to prevail against any and all threats of totalitarian enslavement.

I know of no better way of striving to be worthy of the memory and legacy of the Father of our Country, and of all others who, before him, with him, and after him, have given their lives in the service of their country and people. They have been creators all. The very memory of their Service continues to generate active forces and to increase our material and spiritual resources for the reconstruction and redemption of our damaged land, for the strengthening of our Republic, and for the building of an order of abundance, freedom, and peace. And as we build this country it is our duty to construct our history right. We must be gracious and honest in the acknowledgment of each one's contribution to our country's advancement and prestige. One of the essentials in this task is self-effacing loyalty to

noble traditions and disciplined will to traduce important national events in our development as historical annals that shall merit repetition from the lips of succeeding generations.

It was the special virtue of Manuel Quezon's creative genius that he transmuted his very own limitations into constructive opportunities for serving and lifting his own people. His humbly birth, his poverty, his physical ills, his moral limitations, have all been the means of providing his people increasing opportunities to rise above them, to conquer them, as he did with himself in his own fashion. Out of his tortured experiences as a dedicated leader and public servant, he exemplified the enforcement of a disciplined spirit that is basic to mastery of a people's destiny. Thus it was that towards the end of his days, his thoughts constantly touched on the character of our youth and the "molaves" of our race for inspiration. This preoccupation came of an immeasurable faith in his people, in their capacity of face and survive every manner of disaster, which they have vindicated since Lapulapu through the dark colonial period, the Philippine revolution, the Spanish-American war, and the Japanese occupation.

Men everywhere today bless the name of our people because Manuel Quezon had lived, labored and suffered among them. To invoke his memory is to exalt them. He served his fellowmen because he loved them. He loved his country because it gave him an appropriate field in which to exercise and fulfill his genius for consecrated service. He is great because of his country, and his countrymen are respected because of him.

Words are feeble instruments of loyalty and affection. Our greatest obligation to Manuel Quezon is a steady, continuing endeavor on the part of every Filipino to strengthen his faith, to exercise self-dependence, and to share the blessings of freedom, peace and cooperation in a broadening world community.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Speech of President Quirino at the birthday anniversary program for President Manuel L. Quezon, at Quezon City, August 19, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(8), 3275-3277.

Radiocast of President Quirino at the opening of the Anti-Tuberculosis Educational and Fund Campaign

**Radiocast
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the opening of the Anti-Tuberculosis Educational and Fund Campaign**

[Released on August 20, 1949]

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

I am very happy to open formally the 1949 Anti-Tuberculosis Drive. This occasion should be one great moment to everyone of us regardless of nationality, creed or color. For today and on, we are to replenish the resources vital to the war being waged not against man but against man's mortal enemy—tuberculosis.

The yearly enormous toll on human lives caused by this disease in the Philippines is a dangerous threat to the national welfare. As a result the country sustains tremendous economic losses. The nation can ill afford this unnecessary drain on our man power now or ever. To stop this insidious enemy is the challenge before us. We cannot do this unless we take the problem of tuberculosis control out of the limited sphere of the doctors and nurses' professional field and project it out into the public reach for effective community action. Everyone must realize that nothing better than fighting a common foe like tuberculosis can bring closer together, working with coordination and in constructive competition, the different segments of the community—health and welfare agencies, business firms, civic, religious, and fraternal organizations, schools, and the cosmopolitan group of nationals who have come to live in our land.

Commendation should be given the Philippine Tuberculosis Society, a voluntary agency which started forty years ago with a small group of civic-minded citizens whose vision and determination have made this organization national in scope. Greater commendation should be given to you, volunteer workers, for your desire to help in the alleviation of human suffering. Your role in the drive is more significant than most of you realize. The old concept that health affects only the individual who is ill is no longer tenable for health should be the concern of the entire community. Health is not a commodity that can be offered to and enjoyed by a public that is uninformed, indifferent, and apathetic. For no matter how many hospitals we build, how many physicians, nurses and social workers we train, and how expensively we equip our laboratories for research, if the public fails to cooperate, understand and make use of these facilities, all our efforts to raise the health standard of our nation will prove futile.

Your participation and that of every citizen of this nation in this anti-tuberculosis drive is a demonstration of democracy in action. When we speak of industrial and economic rehabilitation we must not forget that we need man power for this; when we talk of moral and social rehabilitation we must not forget that our goal cannot be achieved if the bulk of our people are suffering from tuberculosis and their potential capacity for economic productivity is, therefore, at a minimal level. The various phases of tuberculosis control are so closely interrelated with our social and economic life that today tuberculosis control has ceased to be only the doctor's problem. It is a community problem and the only way to solve it is by intelligent, concerted and militant community action. For what will it profit a nation to have all the blessings of democracy if its people do not possess the health and well-being to enjoy them? If we must conserve our man power, we must all join forces to fight this enemy that claims 32,000 lives yearly.

Let us make the 1949 Anti-Tuberculosis Drive our "Gift of Health" to the nation.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Radiocast of President Quirino opening the Anti-Tuberculosis Educational and Fund Campaign, August 20, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(8), 3277-3278.

Radiogram of President Quirino to President Truman on the inclusion of the Philippines in the U. S. Military Assistance Program for Atlantic Treaty Countries

**Radiogram
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To President Truman on the inclusion of the Philippines in the U. S. Military Assistance Program for Atlantic Treaty Countries**

[Sent from Baguio City, August 24, 1949]

ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS MY DEEP GRATIFICATION OVER YOUR FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT AT MIAMI THAT THE PHILIPPINES IS INCLUDED IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR ATLANTIC TREATY COUNTRIES. YOUR SPEECH HAS UNDOUBTEDLY BROUGHT THE UNITED STATES CLOSER TO THE HEARTS OF PEOPLES LIKE OURS WHOSE NATIONAL SECURITY IS PRESENTLY THREATENED BY THE ADVANCE OF COMMUNISM. AMERICA'S STAND IN JOINING IN THE COMMON DEFENSE OF THE RIGHTS OF ALL MANKIND GIVES US RENEWED HOPE AND CONFIDENCE.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). President Quirino's radiogram to President Truman on the inclusion of the Philippines in the U. S. Military Assistance Program for Atlantic Treaty Countries, sent from Baguio City, August 24, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(8), 3279.

Message of President Quirino to Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo's upon the latter's election as President of the Fourth General Assembly of the United Nations

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo's upon the latter's election as President of the Fourth General Assembly of the United Nations**

[Released on September 22, 1949]

MY HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS. I AM VERY HAPPY AND OUR PEOPLE REJOICE WITH US OVER YOUR ELECTION. OUR INCREASING RESPONSIBILITY IN OUR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MAKES US ALL THE MORE DETERMINED TO BE WORTHY OF WORLD CONFIDENCE. I PRAY GOD THAT HE GIVE US THE LIGHT, STRENGTH AND VISION TO JUSTIFY FULFILL OUR MISSION. YOU HAVE FULFILLED YOURS. I AM PROUD OF IT.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). President Quirino's message to Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo's upon the latter's election as President of the Fourth General Assembly of the United Nations, September 22, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(9), 3788.

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino at a Popular Banquet, September 23, 1949

Extemporaneous Speech of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines At a Popular Banquet

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, September 23, 1949]

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

I FEEL VERY highly honored by this vast audience, which, perhaps, is the largest that has ever gathered in this hall. I am afraid though that you shall have to listen to a P4 speech. (*Laughter*)

I am sure each one in this gathering can afford to pay P100 per cover. (*Laughter*) But we came here decided to save P96 each and, what is more, I will do my part to save you a great deal of time so as to enable you to go back to your work this afternoon.

I wish this were the Congress of the Philippines to which I could report the result of my recent visit to the United States. There are, indeed, many people quite interested that I make the report public now. Obviously, our political opponents are eager to hear ahead of Congress the result of that trip as if, in so reporting now, I would provide them with an opportunity to expose myself to more cruel and devastating criticism.

Those who entertain such idea are sadly mistaken, because the events which have transpired since I made the visit to the United States prove conclusively that the trip prepared the promotion of the Philippine Republic in rank, in honor, in distinction, and in international admiration. (*Applause*)

A few days ago, a 49-page speech was read in this very hall for the sole purpose of criticizing everything that I did in the United States in an effort to belittle the object of my trip.

I think it was all a lost effort, because subsequently someone not in my political party wrote a 39-page exposition of that trip, which successfully contradicted those 49 pages of distortion.

I fully realize why our friends on the other side of the fence are grieved that I succeeded. They feel depressed to see my picture side by side with that of President Truman's. They dislike hearing repeated references to the speeches that I delivered in the House of Representatives and in the Senate of the United States, because to them these were more than was expected of me. They resent that I was cordially and enthusiastically received by the Government and people of the United States, especially the cheers evoked over the record of this Republic and this Administration.

They cannot endure witnessing other people's success. It pains them to hear words of encomium for me. They cannot associate themselves with the rank and file of the people in expressing gratification for a job well done.

But, my dear friends, it is necessary that you know all the facts and circumstances of the trip to fully realize its effects, which I myself could not have anticipated. They criticize me for using an airplane, which in a way, was a government plane. I suppose they expected me to use a *parao* or *banca* to get to Honolulu, thence swim to San Francisco to reach the United States. I presume it would delight them if I appeared before the American people in rags in order to inspire commiseration from the people and Government of the United States of America.

I distinctly recall saying before leaving the country that I was not going to the United States to beg, because it would not be in keeping with our sense of propriety. But why were the U. S. Government and President Truman and the officials in Washington so kind and sympathetic, so cordial and enthusiastic, and so lavish in their entertainment, showing to the world great esteem for the people of the newly born Republic of the Philippines through me? That

great Republic, the greatest of republics today, need not shower those courtesies upon me, nor upon the Republic of the Philippines for that matter, if only to show its best, its influence, its power. There must be something besides.

The record of my trip is written not only in letters, in public documents, in newspapers. It is written, reproduced, and repeatedly publicized not only in the United States but throughout the world. Why is the world so concerned about this new Republic of the Philippines, this country only three or four years old? There must be something worthy that the Filipino people have done, or set as example, to merit the attention of other nations.

There was. There is. And if we don't fail, if we don't destroy our present institutions, there will be more. For the whole world was astounded at the remarkable accomplishments of this new nation. This is a new nation with a new vision, a new energy, a new determination, a new soul, a new life, and a new outlook.

The degree of intelligence of the Filipino people is amply demonstrated by their statehood's success in less than four years of independent existence. The performance is indeed incredible. For, if you will remember how the whole world was devastated during the last world war; if you will analyze the respective positions of the countries that were plunged into that international conflagration and the extent of the havoc wrought upon each country in comparison with the great sufferings of our people, this country of ours which had been converted twice into a battleground, once when the Japanese came and again when the Americans liberated it; if you will compare the vicissitudes of our people during those darkest hours of international debacle with the experience of other nations, tried and experienced and hardened by other wars in the past, you will fully realize the significance of the admiration of the whole world for us, because of our ability to survive from four years of Japanese occupation and tortures.

We established this new country practically from scratch. Only eighteen million pesos was in our coffers, the residue of the funds held by the Government-in-exile in Washington, on the day of liberation. But in barely three or four years, we were able to reconstitute our government finances. The eighteen million pesos we started with in 1945 has multiplied to more than three hundred and two million pesos in 1949.

When the American liberation forces entered Manila, they found scattered everywhere—even in this very hall—mangled bodies of tortured people. All was waste, all was devastation, all was in ruin, all was in ashes. And then the remnants of our greatly decimated population all in tatters, hungry, bewildered, not knowing perhaps where to go, slowly rose from their prostration. One thing had hardened their spirit and made them determined to rise on their own feet—that was their great faith in the Lord that justice will be served. We rose to live that the nation might never die.

The character and strength of our determination made us accomplish quite a number of things within the three or four years of independent existence. It is a matter of gratification to recall that from rationing, which was the people's mode of life after liberation, to outside charity and help for clothing and food, we emerged from that prostration resolved to rise over national calamity.

We started rebuilding our homes, first from mere *barong-barongs*, later, to better, wider, and more enduring structures. In less than three years of rebuilding, Manila now has larger streets and more comfortable homes. We thought we could not reconstruct or rehabilitate this country in 15 years, certainly not in 10 years! But as we go today through the districts of Manila and elsewhere we see work of rapid reconstruction going on—signs, indeed, of our determination to build this country on a solid rock.

The nations of the world are watching us. The whole world is making comparisons.

On a trip I made in 1947, I observed, as I went through the different countries, that we could favorably compare with them, and upon my return I said to myself, "I am happy that we are not far behind." But that was only a personal confirmation. Other people from the north as well as from the south, people from one continent to another, who have stopped over here, have been generous in their admiration for the great strides that we have made during the last three or four years of our independence.

America was first to recognize the country's rapid and remarkable recovery. Thus, when I crossed the Pacific again last August in an effort to cement and deepen our friendship and goodwill with that great country, what did America do? It showered upon me and, through me, upon the Republic of the Philippines the great admiration which elicited for us the universal esteem we now enjoy.

Those who try to deprecate our country, or mock at our onward march, or cast aspersion on our good name so well earned during the last three or four years of independent existence are doubtless rendering the greatest disservice possible to their country.

My friends, I hope I shall not be called a braggart for referring to myself as having had something to do in placing the name and fame of the new Republic of the Philippines before the world. (*Applause*)

But the elections of November 8, 1949 are being utilized seemingly by certain gentlemen to destroy what we have been building, either merely for temporary political advantage, or to redeem somebody's name, or to vindicate another man's lost career. Even a revolt is insinuated to the people. Why? Are we hungry? Are we in tatters? Are our rights trampled upon? Is there oppression, or calamity, or adversity? Is the country so hard pressed, or is someone so desperate that in order to unseat this Administration revolt is the way out, notwithstanding the fact that this Administration has placed the Philippine Government high in universal esteem and world leadership? (*Applause*)

During the four years of occupation, when our people were compelled to kneel under the scorching sun, ignominiously slapped because they did not know how to respect the Japanese flag or to bow to the Japanese soldier; when innocent people were hanged from trees along the Luneta and the public squares, with their tongues sticking out, because they dared defy the *Kempei-tai* or did not squeal on the guerrillas; when people were taken to Fort Santiago to be tortured and humiliated, if not beheaded in groups, and the moans and groans of those people in the dungeons were heard across the Pasig River to Malacañan, and I was one of them; when our innocent children in the breast of their mothers were snatched away and murdered along with their parents, powerless against the enemy's brutal designs; when the people were kept hungry and in rags just to supply first the needs of the cruel invader; in short, when all these cruelties and inhumanities were being inflicted upon us by a conscienceless foreign ruler, why didn't we then rise in revolt, using all the instrumentalities of the Government, even if it were only a "puppet" government? Who was our leader then? The nerve of this man to incite revolution now against this government! (*Applause*)

Graft and corruption! What did he and his cohorts do during that time? Now, who is cleaning this government? I want to refresh your memory. President Manuel A. Roxas created the Horilleno Committee, taking in as members Dr. Joven, then Deputy Auditor General, and Mr. Jacinto, Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue. They went to work to find out why the ECA was so stinking. They discovered some culprits. These were sent to jail. Others, who were so big to handle because of political consideration, were not brought to book. But when I assumed the Presidency, I re-appointed the Horilleno Committee to go over the Surplus Property Commission and charged it with the duty of chasing out the culprits and sending them behind bars.

Results from the evidence gathered by these gentlemen: there were incriminating documents—checks by the hundreds of thousand — which upon their discovery by the members of the Senate, were utilized as evidence against whom? Not against a mere clerk, or a mere accountant, or a mere chief of division, but against the President of the Senate. (*Applause*)

Remember, in no time in our civil administration have we ever dared to lift an accusing finger against the President of the Senate, no matter who was President, Quezon or anybody else. But the courageous members of the Senate, feeling for the first time the urge of clearing their own house, and led by a dauntless and sturdy citizen, Senator Tañada, (*Applause*) went after the culprit relentlessly and mercilessly and deposed the wrongdoer from the Presidency of the Senate and suspended him for one year as senator. We, too, of the Liberal Party, deposed him as President of the Liberal Party. If that is not cleaning the Government, what is it?

The alleged immigration racket is still under investigation by my order. I have not as yet received any report. But as soon as I receive it and find that someone is answerable for any criminal action, I pledge to you and to my country that whether he be a member of my Party, or a relative, or a friend, or whosoever he may be, I will have but one action: I will have him prosecuted. (*Long Applause*)

Now, who is doing all this? Is it Mr. Avelino? Is it Mr. Laurel? Please remember, my friends, my name is easy to remember—ELPIDIO QUIRINO. I have no middle initial. I am a poor man—and have always been. But from this humble beginning, laying aside temptations that are quite numerous in public service, I have been able to adhere unflinchingly to a motto that early in my public career I had adopted. The motto is: “To so conduct myself both in public and private life that I can always look straight into any man’s eyes and tell him to go to H. . .” (*Applause*)

Now, whose is the slogan for a clean, honest, and efficient government? I have a rightful claim to that. But it is not only my slogan—it is my program of action. Observing that the program of action I adopted has aligned the people to my side, our political adversaries by clever maneuver now try to rob me of the initiative and steal from me the thunder of my slogan. Why should they borrow ideas from one whom they call incompetent? (*Laughter and applause*)

This intellectual minority! These aristocrats of the brain! Why can’t they invent something new for their own slogan? Why do they have to imitate when they can well soar high up in the heavens and contact in the spacious air lanes the molecules from which to concoct their so-called “secret formula”? (*Applause and laughter*)

My friends, let us analyze the present situation of the country and be just to the Administration.

From time immemorial we have had many recurrent problems, and they may still be recurring if we do not find a way to solve them once and for all.

The peace-and-order problem; the rice crisis; the school crisis; and even the political crisis in our country. I am happy to tell you that we have solved them all — these four. We have heard of the Moro dissidents in Lanao, in Cotabato, in Davao, and in Sulu, especially during the American occupation. Expedition after expedition was sent there. General Pershing went with zeal and determination after the Moro dissidents and made a name in Mindanao. General Wood also started his career in the Philippines by going after the dissident elements in Mindanao and Sulu. We have heard of the “colorums” in Pangasinan. You remember the “Sakdalistas” in Quezon, Laguna, Bulacan, and Nueva Ecija. We have heard of the “pulahanes” of Samar and Leyte, the “bandoleros” of Cavite, the “Ganap” elsewhere, and now the “Huks,” the “PKMs,” and other dissident elements in Central Luzon. Now, where are they, may I ask?

There is one man named Taruc, who, according to documents now in my possession, is being considered by my friend Laurel as his Secretary of the Interior if he gets elected. Where is this Taruc? A few months before I assumed office, he even wrote a letter, an open letter, addressed to President Roxas, challenging Mr. Roxas to go and get him where he was. I think he was in San Luis, Pampanga, at that time. I wish he would write me a letter now and tell me where he is, and I will get him dead or alive. (*Applause*)

Of course, the remnants of Taruc’s organization are still foraging around, coming down from the forests and mountain fastnesses in the night to victimize innocent people in far-flung communities at the point of a gun.

But now the people have settled down. They have more rice than before. They have a chance to fraternize in the communities where they live. Today, throughout the country, if one takes the trouble of analyzing the situation, especially in the south and in the extreme north of Luzon and throughout the archipelago, the people are peaceful, law-abiding, and actively productive as of old. As a result, the peoples of Asia, nay, the peoples of the whole world, now do recognize the Philippines as a haven, a place of refuge from lawlessness and misery and turmoil.

We are still surrounded by areas in trouble. China is still aflame. Burma is exposed to Communist danger. Indo-China is no less. Siam the same. Korea is also threatened. Japan is struggling to establish a normal government. It is only here in the Philippines where stability, order, and security are recognizable.

We are not going to stop right here, realizing that the danger to our security is still active. We will keep on working to insure the stability of our institutions, but what I wish to say at this moment is that there is law and order and stability, and this Government is determined to have not only its authority recognized and respected, but its laws obeyed. (*Applause*)

What are the problems that previous administrations have failed to solve? You know that ever since we learned to eat rice, we have been short of that commodity for our consumption. We used to have yearly rice crisis. Each year we have imported rice in amounts running from sixty to ninety million pesos to supplement our local production.

Since last year we have had in operation a measure under my emergency powers. I issued an Executive Order commandeering all the rice produced throughout the country. Under that Executive Order the rice producer is under obligation to turn over to the government his entire produce at the price of P14 a cavan of palay. The intermediaries or rice dealers used to buy this palay at a price ranging from P8 to P11 a cavan. As a result, we accomplished three important things: (1) controlled the rice supply; (2) insured a reasonable profit to the producer; and (3) lowered the retail price on this cereal to the benefit of the consumer.

Supplementing with cheaper imported rice, we now have a sufficient stock of rice, and I can assure the people that there is going to be no rice crisis this year, there will be none next year, and as long as I am President there will be no rice crisis. (*Applause*) There will be no rice crisis because we have taken action that will insure a constant and steady supply of that cereal. We have a program of speedy rice and corn production in strategic areas, such as ten thousand hectares in the Cagayan Valley, ten thousand hectares in Mindoro, ten thousand hectares in Cotabato, ten thousand hectares in Palawan, and thousands of hectares elsewhere, employing wherever possible mechanized farming and technique.

The rice and corn program is not a mere blueprint. It is an active executory of the Government, implemented by an appropriation of ten million pesos and headed by a man who has the know-how to produce rice and corn. In five years we will stop importing rice. We will even be exporting rice.

Ever since the establishment of the public school system in the Philippines, there was not a year in which the parents did not complain because of lack of room for their children. Under previous administrations (American, Commonwealth, and even during the first few years of the Republic of the Philippines), there had been a recurrent school crisis. Since last year—my first year in office—we have solved that.

Having started life as a humble barrio school teacher at P12 a month and having had occasions to observe how parents suffered to see their children out of school for lack of room, I centered my attention on that problem as soon as I was placed in authority to solve it. The record of this Administration proves that despite the enormous increase in enrollment since last year no children of school age are out of school for lack of room, and no mother hereafter need feel apprehensive that her boy or girl will have no place in the public school. (*Applause*)

How did we accomplish all these? Who was responsible for these things? Certainly all these accomplishments must have been directed by somebody, and I take pride in the fact that this Administration was led first by President Roxas, and then by me.

On the other hand, I will be delighted to hear from my detractors who are doubtless blinded by their strong partisanship to show me what they had done in their time. I will tell you what they did. They hurriedly departed upon the approach of the victorious American forces, leaving behind them suffering people in dungeons, in the fields of battle, in droves in the mountain fastnesses and ravines. They escaped from Baguio to Tokyo to establish a Government-in-exile in open defiance to the peoples and Governments of the United States and the Philippines, and Mr. Laurel collected for himself an alleged accrued allowance of 300,000 yen.

Would you believe it, my friends, that on August 17, 1945, my dear friend and colleague and former classmate signed a proclamation stating that his government had ceased to exist as of that date and yet, by the voucher signed by himself and his son as his own disbursing officer and audited by his now campaign manager, my dear friend,

Camilo Osias, he collected his advance pay up to December 31, 1945? (*Applause*.) If his government had ceased to exist on August 17, 1945, how in the world could he collect his salary up to December 31, 1945? (*Applause*)

He was no longer the head of any government during that period and there was no law authorizing him to collect a pension. Is not this illuminating in so far as it shows the character of the man?

Realizing the legitimacy of the claims of the bulk of government employees for assistance and recognition, I recommended to the Congress and secured the passage of Republic Act No. 304, better known as the Backpay Law. Shortly after the approval of the Act, Mr. Laurel, losing no time, submitted his claim to National Treasurer Guevara, for P47,410.71 to cover the period January 1, 1942 to February 26, 1945, as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. If you recall, Mr. Laurel during the occupation period was successively Minister of Justice, Minister of the Interior, and President of the so-called Republic of the Philippines and as such collected his salaries. He knew that the Republic—this Republic—was still operating on borrowed money and the smaller employees were not yet paid their backpay. Yet Mr. Laurel presented his claim for backpay to Mr. Guevara as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court and converted it all into cash.

Where is Mr. Guevara? (*Applause*) Mr. Guevara, stand up, please.

“Am I right, Mr. Guevara, that Mr. Laurel presented his claim for backpay as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court?”

Mr. Guevara: “Yes, Sir.” (*Applause*)

“Is it true that Mr. Laurel collected his backpay for the period from January 1, 1942 to February 26, 1945, as member of the Supreme Court of the Philippines?”

Mr. Guevara: “Yes, Sir.” (*Applause*)

“Is it true (*Applause*) that Mr. Laurel was able to convert this into cash when other Government employees less fortunately situated would have to wait ten years for redemption by using his backpay certificate to pay off his land taxes in Manila and Mandaluyon and his wife’s obligation with the RFC?”

Mr. Guevara: “Yes, Sir.” (*Applause*)

“Thank you, Mr. Guevara.”

So we have this strange feat.

In view of the fact that Mr. Laurel, using his legal and other talents, succeeded in collecting readily his backpay contrary to the intent and purpose of the law, as soon as the Congress meets I will see to it that the modest government employees will also get their backpay under more favorable terms. (*Long applause*)

It is right for Mr. Laurel to collect his salary as puppet president up to August 17, 1945, because his government, according to him, was still in existence up to that date. But to collect salary from August 18, 1945 to December 31, 1945, and have it charged against “his government” when he was already at Sugamo Prison in Yokohama, — what will you call that? (*Uproar*) To me it is pure and simple misappropriation of public funds. (*Applause*)

There is the man who but a few days ago in Dumaguete called me a racketeer, simply because I have not yet taken any action on the alleged immigration quota racket pending the receipt of the report of the committee investigating it.

My friends, I am not telling you this in order to cast unreasonable and unjust aspersion on my political rival, but the common man must know the real quality and character of the man who bids for another lease on the confidence of

the people. This is the time to tell him full in the face that he should clean his record first before he casts aspersion on the record of others. (*Applause*)

My friends, I am not overanxious to continue occupying the position that I now have. I repeat, I was once a poor barrio schoolteacher. Steadily and gradually, rung by rung, I climbed hard until I was able to reach this pinnacle in my public career. I want to tell you that I cannot boast of an inch of property of my own, directly or indirectly. I have no house. I have not been able to buy a house thus far. I was not even able to acquire any property or accumulate jewels during the occupation (*Applause*) and the only legacy I can give to my children is my name, but I am proud of that legacy. (*Applause*)

In order to preserve the prestige, dignity, and honor which is now my privilege to enjoy as Chief Executive of this Republic, especially that prestige which this young Republic has earned in my time in international esteem, I should not be a candidate. I would thereby avoid risking the abuse and vituperation attendant at an election such as this. I am perfectly aware of the hazards. But one thing compels me to go on happen what may. I claim to have a great deal of investment in this new Republic. From an early age I have served the Government continuously and faithfully, including the country's struggle for independence.

You will recall that in 1933 President Quezon and I went to the United States to secure from the American Congress a law to replace the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act, which we rejected. You will also recall that we returned bringing with us the Tydings-McDuffie Law. And from then on I served our Government in different capacities—in the Senate and in the Cabinet several times during the Commonwealth Government. During the darkest hours of our history, I was tortured and humiliated in Fort Santiago.

At that time my friend Laurel was Secretary of the Interior. I rotted there under the feet of the *Kempei-tai* without assistance, without help. Because of his announcement that the City of Manila would be declared an open city and because of my pledge not to leave the City of Manila without the consent of the *Kempei-tai*, I had to stand the crossfire in Ermita when the Americans came to redeem this Jap-ridden city. There I was, with my wife and children and other relatives. With shoes and clothes on I swam the Paco creek ten times to save what remained of my family and bring them to safety on the American side, leaving one or two dear ones dead on street corners.

Recovering from that bloody Odyssey, President Roxas and I laid the foundation of this Republic.

These are my investments. I vowed then, and I vow now, in the name of my dear ones and the people who had suffered with me during those dark hours that I shall devote all my strength and energy and intelligence to the service of my country. (*Long applause*)

That is the urge that burns in my heart and spurs me to action today. I am committed to this action not merely because I want to direct the affairs of this nation, but because I don't want the destiny of our country placed in vicious and irresponsible hands.

If by a queer twist of fate this country is delivered to those who so loved the Japanese that our heroes of yesterday were completely placed in oblivion by them, what assurance have we that eventually we would not be placed in pawn to the Red Spectre of Communism? Then all our efforts, all our sacrifices, all our sufferings would be in vain.

My friends, the Communists are active. Right here in our midst, they are fomenting the destruction of our democratic institutions. We should not take lightly the plan of Mr. Laurel to make Taruc his Secretary of the Interior, to suspend democratic practices, and ultimately to change the processes in this Government. Laurel, Taruc, and the Reds — what a mental comfort for conjecture! The Reds are the avowed enemy of the democratic way of life. Are we going to deliver this country to the Reds through Laurel and Taruc? That is the question. Are you? (*Vociferous "No" from audience*) Then, I submit my case. Thank you. (*Prolonged applause*)

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Statement: President Quirino on the death of Archbishop Michael O'Doherty, October 14, 1949

Statement of President Quirino:
On the death of Archbishop Michael O'Doherty

[Delivered on October 14, 1949]

Death definitely had not sting and could claim no victory when our beloved Archbishop Michael O'Doherty was called unto his Maker.

He lived a full life in the service of God and the Filipino people.

The impress of his works and his spirit on the life of our nation has become a part of our precious moral heritage and is worthy of the affectionate memory of succeeding generations.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Statement: President Quirino on the death of Archbishop Michael O'Doherty. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(10), 4353.

Twelfth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino to his fellow countrymen, October 15, 1949

**Twelfth Monthly Radio Chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To his fellow countrymen**

[Delivered over station DZFM October 15, 1949]

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

Three weeks from now all the nation will go to the polls to choose the President and members of Congress for next four years. We shall exercise a right our people have won after the sacrifice of so much life and treasure. No action of ours will be more instinct with destiny not only for the next four years but perhaps for the next four hundred. We cannot give it too much care and thought.

These are the first presidential elections under our Republic. We are electing by direct popular will, for the first time, the President and Vice President of the Republic. In 1946 we elected the President and the Vice President of the Commonwealth who eventually continued their respective offices as officials of the Republic on July 4th of that year. The presidential elections on November 8, 1949 are more significant and, in many ways, of more far-reaching effects on the welfare and happiness of this country.

All of us share an equal stake in our democracy. It is a good democracy, whatever our individual limitations. It is comparable to any other authentic democracy elsewhere. We have shown it to be so and the world has recognized the fact since we assumed the responsibilities of complete freedom as a Republic four years ago.

We started with tremendous handicaps—an empty treasury, an economy in ruins, a hungry, ill-clothed, ill-sheltered population, a soul seared in the fire of a world-wide conflict. We had advantages too—the friendship and assistance of the greatest democracy in the world. Well, we have mastered our handicaps and we have not only kept our friendships but also deepened and enlarged them. We have done so because we had the faith, the vision and the will.

As we take to the polls, we shall bear all that in mind. We shall thus be strengthened in our confidence that our democracy is here to stay because we have laid good foundations; and no one, no group, will be allowed to dissipate our gains as a people. We shall not barter our stake in our democracy and Republic for any petty and personal advantage of the moment.

As I have intimated, we are privileged to determine not merely the shape of things in the next four years. The consequence of our choice is bound to cast longer shadows —reaching out to the lives of the next generation.

The next four years will be the most trying period in our civil administration because of the complicated economic and financial problems that we will have to face during said period. It is a most challenging period for our constructive capabilities as a nation.

Inevitable financial and economic problems peculiar to our relations with the United States will have to be met. The gradual imposition of tariff duties upon our goods now being exported free to the United States will be initiated. The cessation of the inflow of financial assistance in accordance with commitments of the United States to the Philippines will occur. The business recession which is beginning to be felt in the United States will naturally affect Philippine business. And, along with these economic changes born out of our trade and general relations with the United States, we shall be entering upon the most crucial stage of execution of our huge program of development for which we have already invested hundreds of millions of pesos for its realization.

We have to establish our merchant marine, stabilize our air traffic enterprise, reinforce our coastwise shipping develop and expand our hemp and coconut industries, revive and revitalize our tobacco industry, stabilize our sugar industry, speed up our program of production of prime commodities for our own sustenance, like rice and corn, finish the construction of numerous essential irrigation systems to promote agricultural production, resume our mining industry, promote and develop the fishing industry as well as the lumber industry and other industries which we are planning to initiate with the establishment of hydro-electric power in Luzon and Mindanao, and do all the one; thousand and one things that require technical, financial and economic training and preparation to secure the economic stability of this nation.

In these elections we will choose the leaders to undertake all these activities and guide the nation with their expert hands. There is thus a new pattern—distinct, peculiar and challenging—that our people have to reckon with in the choice of their leaders. On top of this, we have to perfect the alternative to communism which is beginning to gnaw at our national institutions and destroy everything that we have been building through established democratic processes and accepted ways of life. We need the firm hand, the man of vision and courage to lead us in our defense against this threat to our new independent life and well-earned sovereignty.

We shall, therefore, vote not only for men but for a principle and mode of national life. We cannot afford to make a mistake if we are to insure the happiness of succeeding generations.

It would be a good idea, if,—before election day comes, and as the different political parties wind up their campaigns to a climax,—we should individually take time out to examine our prime political motivations and make sure that our will on election day comprehends the safety and progress of our democracy. It should be possible—and should give us moral satisfaction in the bargain—to restate to ourselves the basic issues on which we are challenged to make a fateful decision. And as we do so, we should guard against the common mistake of applying perfectionist standards to that side on which our personal sympathy happens not to lie, and of using a convenient different standard in reference to the side we favor. We should also guard against the worst mistake of complete cynicism and inaction arising from applying perfectionist standards to all sides and discovering no perfection in any or all.

It has well been said that to act successfully, that is, according to the rules of the political art, is political wisdom. To know with despair that the political act is inevitably disadvantageous, and to act nevertheless, is moral courage. To choose among several expedient actions the least evil one is moral judgment. In the combination of political wisdom, moral courage and moral judgment, man reconciles his political nature with his moral destiny.

In making our choice, therefore, for choose we must, we should be guided by fundamental issues. We must distinguish the real from the imaginary. We must realize whether we are choosing democracy or absolutism, freedom or enslavement, honesty, or corruption, national welfare or personal justification, the Christian tradition of individual worth and dignity or communist regimentation, due processes or force and violence, economic planning or doctrinaire intellectualism, international cooperation or intransigent nationalism and isolationism. The records of all aspirants to office are now sufficiently well known. We can check them against those issues to see where they stand.

It is to be expected that every candidate should want to win. I, personally, hope that I shall be elected by the people, along with my team mate, Senator Lopez, and the rest on the ticket of the Liberal Party. That is a legitimate hope. And my prayer is that such a victory will be through the free and peaceful expression of the people's will. I would not accept it on any other terms. One of the candidates was reported to have said to the people at a meeting in Dipolog, Zamboanga, that with or without election, he would be in Malacañan on January 1, 1950. Another candidate is known to have the same astonishing-self-assurance.

The electioneering noise now rising in crescendo carries reflections of the attitude in their followers. Some are intolerant and would scare the people and coerce them into the conviction that their candidate will win in the coming elections, come what may. Others, in order to buoy up the spirits of their group, make the wildest calculation, fixing a fantastic percentage of probability in the success of their candidate. Still others, more desperate and more dangerous, continue to suggest revolution if frauds are committed, thereby preparing a pre-electoral alibi should

their candidate eventually fail of election. This is expressive of the saying in Spanish, “Poner el parche antes de que salga el grano.”

It is my earnest hope that we all shall vote in utmost tranquillity and freedom. It is my responsibility that we all have that tranquillity and freedom in the legitimate expression of our will at the polls. I am determined to maintain that atmosphere within my power and prerogative as head of this Nation. I shall not tolerate threats or violence or any attempt to vitiate the popular will. And I warn those who are bent on sowing fear and terror, in the guise of advocating free and untrammelled elections, to intimidate the electorate. I think I know the character, origin or tendencies of those who are engaged in this disservice to our nation. I shall not and our people will not be fooled. As individual citizens, it is our supreme concern that we do nothing to jeopardize the free expression of that will on the part of our fellow citizens.

I rely on the good sense of our people. I count on our sound experience in democratic ways to vindicate that good sense on election day and any other occasion for the legitimate expression of our will

Our democracy can only survive and be as good as we are willing and ready to keep it sound. I am sure we value enough the sacrifices of our heroic past to keep and nourish our democracy in health—for a Republic that, we mean, and our children will mean, to endure.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Twelfth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino to his fellow countrymen, October 15, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(10), 4353-4357.

Message of President Quirino on the Fifth Anniversary of General MacArthur's landing on Leyte, October 19, 1949

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the Fifth Anniversary of General MacArthur's landing on Leyte**

[Released on October 19, 1949]

The Leyte landing on October 20 five years ago will long be remembered as the day General MacArthur fulfilled his promise to return.

That memorable landing will also be recorded as the beginning of the campaign which ended the tragedy of Japanese occupation and, by the same token, the return of democracy and freedom to our shores.

As we observe the fifth anniversary of that famous landing, let us bear in mind that there are new threats to that freedom and new forces are gathering within and without that seek to nullify all our gains since Leyte.

The hour calls for continued vigilance.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). Message of President Quirino on the Fifth Anniversary of General MacArthur's landing on Leyte. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(10), 4363.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Radio speech of President Quirino on United Nations Day, October 24, 1949

**Radio Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On United Nations Day**

[Broadcast in Manila and New York, October 24, 1949]

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AND FRIENDS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD:

It is a signal pleasure to me as President of the Philippines to be able to greet you on United Nations Day.

At no time perhaps in the history of the world is there a greater imperative for peoples everywhere, East and West, North and South, to join in one solid determination to stand together if they are to survive, if they are to preserve everything that they cherish of their culture and civilization.

We in, the Philippines have an equal obligation with every other country to add our weight for the continued strengthening of the United Nations towards this urgent end. Whatever every Filipino does in support of the United Nations and of this end is an act of the deepest concern for the safety of his own native land. He can express no greater loyalty to the invaluable heritage from his own country's heroic past.

We are especially honored by the fact that a representative of our Republic is now head of the United Nations General Assembly. It means that however modest is our position among the nations of the world, we can contribute directly and significantly to the resolution of the major problem of our century, which is the advancement and the preservation of peace. Ambassador Romulo' as President of the United Nations General Assembly can do only as much as his own people back home, as individual citizens and as a group, are ready to undertake to maintain the will to peace under conditions that are just to men of understanding everywhere.

And so, on this United Nations Day, let us consecrate ourselves anew for this purpose. Let us pray that men everywhere else will be of like resolution that peace will prevail with justice and honor to all mankind.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). Radio speech of President Quirino on United Nations Day. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(10), 4368-4369.

Address of President Quirino, before the ROTC review and rally in his honor, November 6, 1949
Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the ROTC review and rally in his honor

[Delivered at the Luneta, Manila, November 6, 1949]

Members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps of the Philippines, Fellow Citizens, Dear Friends:

I wish to thank you for the magnificent review which I have just had the pride and pleasure to witness. Seeing you march by in orderly precision on these historic grounds has given my heart a tremendous lift beyond calculation. The familiar words of our greatest national hero come to mind to reaffirm my faith in the bright destiny of our common land. I stand before the cream of our educated, disciplined Filipino youth, the perfect flower of our country's manhood, and feel immeasurably rewarded by the vision and hope which your attendance here has renewed in me. Ours is a nation blessed indeed with ample resources and the richest, the most valuable by far of them all, stand here today—our country's youth.

The ROTC itself is not all future. It has a glorious record to remember and go by. Its members, at the outbreak of the Pacific War, found in their status and training the solid basis of an inner irresistible compulsion to service and sacrifice. As individuals and as a group, they rushed to the colors in defense of our country and vindicated the validity of their background. In the dark years of the Occupation, they reinforced the core and backbone of our national resistance. Our soil is richer today because of many an ROTC young man who has given his life and found a final resting place that bears no humble memorial to his service.

I have not the least doubt that you of today are capable of repeating, and even improving on, past performances. I am not saying this in anticipation of a greater holocaust than the last one inflicted upon our country and upon the world. I am saying it because of the conviction that you of today can be just as courageous, just as ready to make the supreme sacrifice, just as capable of vision and faith in the advancement of an order of freedom and justice for yourselves and your posterity.

The fact that there is still fear today in many places, that enslavement still exists for many people, that injustice is still the fare of certain communities, may and can make many a serious young mind cynical and suspicious of the future. The same fact does make many a sober old heart yearn with nostalgia for the so-called "good old days" of feudal paternalism and plain free-booting. The terror engendered by loose talk about the dire potentialities of atomic fission and the possible total liquidation of the race of men is quite real, and to talk of a brave new world where liberty and justice reign would, to some people, be to laugh.

And yet I must tell you in all earnestness that you of today in this vast audience are privileged and to be congratulated because you are in attendance at the birth of a new order destined to bear the marks of man's fondest dream. There is a false assumption that the world is breaking up into two or three more worlds, and therefore ours is an age of decay and dissolution, of despair and defeat. Sometimes, to judge from our own local experience today, hearing so many loud voices of dissidence and disruption, we may be even tempted to doubt the survival of our Republic. We would make a grave mistake to allow ourselves to be thus affected. We are, definitely, in an age of creation—nationally and internationally. The truculence, the dissidence, the violence indicate merely that we are in the beginnings of a wholly new and prodigious task towards unity and peace for all mankind, starting here at home. The pains, the anxiety and the agony possibly still awaiting us are not those of a dying world but of a new one that is being delivered. It is the mark of leadership in our age to reduce and mitigate the pains.

I am confident that the country's youth here represented is capable of appreciating this great privilege and responsibility. Our country's resources are being expended for your education and discipline so that you can measure up to this privilege and responsibility. Your training as members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps should sharpen your capacity to distinguish between reason, responsibility and cooperation on one hand, and the

anarchic individualism and license mistaken for democratic liberty, on the others It should heighten your feeling of the connective tissue that binds society, the sense of community and common welfare without which organized, civilized living is empty, let alone, impossible.

Your discipline should quicken your sensibilities to infections of all kinds, the most subtle and dangerous of which is the emotional variety spread by neurotic individuals to find scope and sanction for their own unhealthy aberrations. There are many today of such men failing to make adjustment to the moral and spiritual exigencies of an advancing order of decency and freedom. They make blanket accusations, based not on specific evidence of wrongdoing but on race, religion, party or social organization. They recklessly besmirch the innocent, mistake opinion for anti-social behaviour, seeking to increase their importance by their accusations against others. They use their victims as targets for popular resentment to divert attention either from genuinely dangerous persons or from necessary constructive activity. Your education and training should enable you to appreciate and apply the proper measure of cure for such infection—which is the creative attitude and the creation of the chance to express energy in constructive projects.

As members of the ROTC, you are our country's basic investment in preparedness for the contingencies that attend our national life and international relations. We cannot be so naive as to depend on absolute pacifism. Neither can we afford morally or materially to believe in absolute militarism. We must reckon with realities and seek to discover how to organize our country, and cooperate with the world, for peace, always working towards that end, without assuming that before the goal is attained any nation can be exempt from war. As the basis of our citizen army, it is in you to obviate the necessity of a purely paternalistic policy on the part of our government which can revert our people to infantile dependence or drive them to savage violence. The high level of your intelligence and training should make for widening self-dependence and orderly cooperation conducive to continuous nation-building and the development of a free and peaceful world.

Our people are proud, as I am proud, to look to the ROTC for the conservation of our tradition of heroic sacrifice. Our country's great past justifies it. The ROTC record in the war and the resistance sustains this expectation. The tremendous efforts we are making today to be able to pass on to you a task no one can hope to complete by one generation are inspired by this expectation.

Our people look to you for inspiration and example in the democratic but orderly and constructive conduct of our individual, community and national life. This means the rational acceptance and observance of the sanctions of our Christian culture and democratic heritage. This equally means resistance to the tenets and trends alien to them, as well as their rejection. We can show that a democratic community has a discipline that allows fulfillment of the best, creative impulses of its individual members and the preservation of their human worth and dignity.

Finally, because your training and discipline stem from the sanctions of our liberal traditions, you constitute our country's investment in the advancement of unselfish cooperation in a just and free world order. Because you know what principles you are committed to practice and defend, the lessons of human strivings for the attainment of freedom and plenty and peace will not be lost upon you. On the contrary they will continue to move you, and you will not rest from helping and cooperating with like-minded individuals and nations to push and extend the road nearer to their realization. You will observe the participation of our country in the deliberations and transactions of the United Nations with active and intelligent interest; and within the radius of your action and influence you can spread the intelligence that builds goodwill, understanding, cooperation and peace.

I salute you all. Upon you, our greatest prophets and leaders have looked to perfect their dream of our country's destiny. For you, they have struggled and sacrificed. Of you, they expect that you will strive no less, because you are capable no less, that the heritage you have received and enjoy may be passed on richer to the next generation.

On this memorable day, the first of its kind in our training for national preparedness, I cannot but feel secure, by reason of your splendid performance, that at long last the country has been able to organize an intelligent, patriotic and dependable nucleus of a citizen army that will effectively depend and protect and preserve for our posterity the liberty and freedom that we won barely four years ago. Considering the threats to our democratic political

institutions from within as well as from without, I cannot but feel reassured that with your discipline and loyalty you who grow in number throughout the length and breadth of this our beloved land, our Republic will be secure.

For, in truth, we look upon this generation, your generation, as the repository of that potential strength and the vision and courage necessary for the preservation of our sovereignty and traditions as a nation. On your shoulder, therefore, rests the future of your country's destiny.

Under the shadow of that great, noble martyr and hero who at this moment undoubtedly contemplates with pride this patriotic congregation, I want to renew with him my faith in your capacity, and my confidence in your determination, to hold high and honor with your achievements those ideals for which early in the morning of December 30, 1896 he gave up his life that this nation might be born. Your duty now is for you to make it continue to live. For the liberty and freedom which we have sacrificed for centuries and centuries to achieve was not meant for you alone but for the succeeding generations to enjoy. We who have founded this Republic will not sleep in our tomb when we die, if we learn that you have failed us. God grant that you do not. I pray that you will not.

The mettle of our race has been severely tested during our recent vicissitudes. It will again survive that test should future events compel us to submit to another test. The Republic lives with you. It shall live after you.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). Address of President Quirino before the ROTC review and rally in his honor. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(11), 4842-4846.

Radio Address of President Quirino on Pre-election, November 7, 1949

**Radio Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On Pre-election**

[Delivered on November 7, 1949]

PRE-ELECTION RADIO ADDRESS

THE DAY of reckoning has arrived. I wanted to submit in brief the balance sheet of the present administration. I regret, indeed, that our dear friend, President Roxas, is not now with us to account for and appreciate our common performance. But we are all familiar with the splendid work that he had accomplished before he was, prematurely for us, called by the Lord to His side.

I lost no time in taking up the work where he left off. Not only have I faithfully followed the program of national action which he and I had laid down as the basic structure of this New Republic, but I have also been absolutely loyal to him, and God knows it. Of course, I have tried to improve our original plan and the records show that I have succeeded in my attempt. For your information, I want to make a resumé in these fleeting moments.

Under the most difficult circumstances, when we were still busy healing wounds, we launched on July 4, 1946, the Republic of the Philippines.

In less than four years since then we have been able to rebuild our national economy and to accelerate our national rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Although we feared that we might not be able to reconstruct the country in ten or fifteen years, it is a fact that not only did we reconstruct almost all the public improvements destroyed during the war, but built more bridges, more roads, more hospitals, more puericulture centers, more irrigation systems, more schools and other public improvements than ever before.

We only have to compare Manila immediately after liberation and Manila as we see it today, with its streets widened, cemented, or asphalted, its rebuilt public structures such as the Bureau of Posts Building, the City Hall, the Philippine Normal School and dormitory, and the Custom House, and under reconstruction such old landmarks as the Legislative Building, Finance Building, Agriculture Building, Philippine School of Arts and Trades, and the piers. Inspired and encouraged by this spirit of aggressive rebuilding, private homes have been reconstructed and many new ones have been built more convenient, more comfortable, and even more beautiful and substantial than those erected before the war. Verily, Manila has been seeing remarkable and speedy face-lifting.

Farms have been rehabilitated, industries revived, commercial activities resumed, and, in general, the constructive genius of the people has been revitalized.

A mere mention of the fact that practically all our sugar centrals are again operating and a number of our mines are not only producing but paying dividends will give us an idea — and a most encouraging one — of our accelerated industrial revival.

We have immeasurably improved the lot of the common man, raised the standard of living of the humbler members of the personnel of the Government, and increased the basic pay of the enlisted personnel of the Army from eighteen to fifty pesos, and the minimum salary of the teachers from forty to one hundred pesos. We have adjusted the labor wage in many government entities as well as private institutions so that the wage-earner may receive a commensurate increase in compensation for his toil.

In the City of Manila and Quezon City alone, we have been able to clear many of the slums and have built tenement houses for laborers and low-salaried employees. We have granted vacation and sick leave even to temporary personnel. We have not neglected the great bulk of the civil service employees, granting them backpay and thus satisfying their clamor during the past two administrations for the recognition of their right to compensation during the occupation. For the veterans, their widows, and their orphans, we have been able to extend the necessary relief in the form of educational benefits and pensions for the war widows and orphans. We have also solved the problem of the redemption of the emergency and guerrilla notes and thus extended relief to private persons who helped in the resistance movement.

I want to make special mention of the farmers, the laborers, and that bulk of our masses from which I sprang. This administration, with its program of social amelioration, has endeavored to minister to their needs, giving them food, clothing, and shelter when necessary, and providing them with schools, roads, bridges in their respective localities and even granting them crop loans to rehabilitate their farms and home industries or initiate them in new constructive activities.

This administration has not only purchased big landed estates to be distributed to the landless but has also provided for the settlement of all vacant public agricultural lands for eventual acquisition by them.

The program of total economic mobilization adopted by this administration is predicated upon the necessity of providing our masses with the means for their sustenance and the improvement of their standard of living. This is not a mere plan. It is an actual program of action implemented by thousands of millions of pesos and is now under execution.

We have solved two outstanding problems which have annually embarrassed many administrations in the past — the so-called school crisis and rice crisis. No child of school age is now refused admission in our public schools for lack of room, and nobody need be afraid that he cannot buy rice for himself and his family. And the price of rice has gone down considerably, to P0.90 per ganta, compared to P2.50 three years ago.

Not only have we solved the annual rice crisis, but with an aggressive program of speedy rice production implemented by millions of pesos of appropriation for the direct exploitation of tens of thousands of hectares of rice land and with the establishment of many irrigation systems and the extensive use of fertilizers to improve our production, we can expect that in five years the Philippines may even export rice. We have embarked upon a huge program of construction of irrigation systems throughout the country and have actually set aside millions of pesos for its execution.

We have established the Central Bank which is now operating on its own income and has, besides, made available no less than 65 million pesos for the development and expansion of the hemp industry and the rehabilitation of the tobacco and coconut industries as well as the stabilization of the sugar industry.

Our foreign trade has tremendously increased, far surpassing the pre-war volume.

Our national income jumped from eighteen million pesos in 1945 to over three hundred million pesos in 1949.

We have organized a strong, stable government and have established an excellent foreign service. As a result of our performance, we have increased our international prestige remarkably—rising from the modest status of a three-year old infant Republic to the presidency and leadership of the United Nations Assembly.

Thus, we have not only rebuilt the country but built a new name and prestige in less than four years of sovereign national existence.

And we live in peace and tranquility, presently concentrating our efforts on our economic stability and national security.

What I have listed are the assets of the administration. They remain solid and beyond dispute, however hard our deprecators and political adversaries may try, for temporary political advantage, to pull down the results of our efforts at nation-building.

With this record to our credit, the Liberal Party, the genuine Liberal Party, bids for a further chance to guide the destiny of this new nation.

Tomorrow we shall go to the polls. I urge that everyone should exercise the right to vote. I am sure we will—not so much because I expect you to vote for me and my fellow candidates in the Liberal Party (for I am certain you will make a wise choice) as because we must all be on record as having exercised our rights to express our sovereign will. I address myself especially to the people who in the past have not taken much interest in the elections, and particularly to the farmers, the laborers, the artisans, and that bulk of the masses heretofore inarticulate, who have the greatest stake in these elections, and whose welfare, security, and happiness all political parties are exerting every effort to champion. All must express their voice through the ballot. Our right to do so should not be taken for granted. Our fathers have invested incalculable blood and treasure, suffered every manner of heartbreak, to secure us this right. There are still many peoples in the world today going through the most cruel ordeals so that they may secure and enjoy this right.

In the natural, the physical, and the moral world what we do not use we ultimately lose, and what we do not exercise we forfeit. God spare us the day when we cannot vote as sovereign individuals in a Christian democracy because we have neglected to exercise actively our right to do so.

We go to the polls to make a decision. On election day our citizens judge, and are judged in turn by the wisdom or unwisdom of their decision. You will have to decide whether the present set-up whose performance I have just described should continue guiding the destiny of the nation, or whether you should start anew and establish a new administration which, though replete with promises, is still untried.

Tomorrow's elections are as much a test of the political fiber and moral texture of the people as those of the competing candidates for office. You will make a crucial decision in our national life. Its consequences will affect generations after us.

You have to approach this decision calmly and soberly. The administration has adopted all such necessary measures as may insure an orderly, peaceful, and honest election, so that you can freely express your will without being bulldozed into making a decision that will betray the common welfare.

This administration is determined and is prepared to see that our people's opportunity to vote is in no manner restricted or violated. All measures and precautions are taken to secure this end. There must be peace and order while we go to the polls. Our duty is clear and nothing can make this administration swerve from it. But you must cooperate in the maintenance of peace and order, each and everyone, by being peaceful yourself. Once again our temperament and our political maturity are going to be tested. I am confident that they will be reasserted and confirmed.

In these the first presidential elections under our Republic, I am certain that our people will emerge victorious by their choice. I know of no victory that can give me greater happiness and satisfaction, because it will be the victory of discipline over disorder, of a self-respecting democracy over the threats and techniques of neo-totalitarians, of the sovereign popular will over the lofty pretensions of a discredited leadership and the unscrupulous manipulations of disgruntled demagogues or the political malingering of a camouflaged conspiracy to commit sedition or terrorism.

We will have a peaceful election tomorrow. And the earth will not stop turning for us after tomorrow. Under the leadership of the Liberal Party, the party that will win, we shall continue to broaden the road towards the enrichment of our life and destiny as a free people. We shall proceed in our course towards increasing fulfillment of our program of reconstruction and production. We shall count with, and keep, the friendship of the freest peoples of the world. We shall continue to cooperate in advancing and strengthening a lasting peace rooted in plenty, freedom, and

self-respect for all. We shall continue to do all these because we know how to keep our own house in order and because we appreciate the responsibility of free men to their own community and to the world.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Extemporaneous Address of President Quirino Before Educators, December 10, 1949

**Extemporaneous Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before Educators**

[Released on December 10, 1949]

EDUCATION AND SOCIETY

I AM very glad to welcome you here. I am very glad for the opportunity, in the midst of the pressure of state business, to have this pleasant respite in which to have an intimate exchange of ideas on questions of mutual interest to us.

You and I—you as our educational leaders and I as immediate main servant of the people—you and I have a common concern in the ordering of the society in which we live. As we all can directly observe, it is not a static society. On the contrary, it is intensively dynamic at an accelerating rate. We have only to think of the hopes and anxieties that gather about the awesome development of atomic technology as a peculiar symptom of this age to realize how fast our world is moving. That motion can be either for strength or for weakness, for integration or for disintegration, for building or for destruction.

Our system of education is supposed to be a bulwark in the preservation and continued enrichment of our cherished way of life. It cannot maintain this function without taking cognizance of the dynamic quality of our technological civilization and making the necessary adjustments to have that quality serve a constructive purpose.

This can only mean that our educational leaders must constantly reassess not only the techniques of our educational system but its objectives. In other words, we must constantly ask ourselves what kind of social order we want and find a reasonable measure of agreement as to a basic pattern sufficiently flexible to respond to the contingencies of rapid change.

A feature we would no doubt want to achieve and maintain in the pattern of this social order is equality of educational opportunity. We have already achieved that to the extent that no Filipino child is now denied the chance to have at least an elementary education; to the extent that no qualified child is, in effect and in fact, refused admission in any school.

But with every child admitted in school, our concern still is: education for what? That is the crucial question.

A feature of the social pattern that we expect and believe to be constant, of course, is freedom. We want a free society.

But freedom, like democracy, has come to mean all things to all men. The communists have always been and are ready to jump for the word at the slightest provocation. To them, as to us, it is a fighting word. But what is freedom and how good is freedom? If the communists, or the fascists, are for freedom, and if we are for freedom, what are we set against each other for?

Again, with all due respect to the mystics, what good is freedom if we are all under the ground? What good is freedom if, however dubious its advantages, we are alone in the wilderness and have no one to share it with? If we do not watch out, this business of freedom will be the end of us all.

And yet the urgency and the obligations of freedom we cannot ignore. Upon our educational leaders devolves a great responsibility to fashion and run a system that will teach us to be free and remain free. The task, therefore, is to give

us a helpful and creative picture of freedom that will preserve us and preserve the world in a dynamic age because it actively accepts responsibility.

For freedom to accept responsibility is to impose limitations upon itself. There cannot be such a thing as absolute freedom in any free but organized community, and the very technological advances which increasingly bind a widening area closer for organized thinking and action serve to strengthen those limitations.

We as a people have gone through the gruelling ordeal of fighting for freedom. Now that we have it, we must be sure that we can recognize it in our day-to-day experience, that we can recognize its true opportunities and appreciate its real responsibilities. Otherwise our freedom so-called may operate to our profound grief, like the classic mad bull in a china shop.

I think it is the special opportunity of our educational and cultural leadership to help our people live not only in, but with, and for, freedom. The domestic difficulties that we face today challenge our understanding and appreciation of freedom. Freedom can be mistaken as license to induce mutual suspicion, disaffection, and chaos, through organized misinformation and systematic abuse of civil liberties. Freedom can be misused to cloak the cupidity of unhappy and impressionable individuals whose loyalty to their country's interest ends where their loyalty to their personal ambition begins. Freedom can be taken as an opportunity to undermine and destroy an existing framework without anticipating to fill the created vacuum with a new and better one. Freedom can be invoked to disintegrate our faith in our capacity to plan and work together to raise a national structure responsive to our moral and material needs.

The tremendous advance scientific man has made in improving instruments of destruction both psychological and physical lies at the root of the profound sense of insecurity which cruelly weighs upon all peoples today. This is a part of the picture of freedom or lack of it that our educational leadership must reckon with if we are to be educated for freedom.

Because of the widespread and intense longing for peace and security, among the haves as among the have-nots, among individuals as among nations, there is a new variety of freedom being dangled before men's eyes and imagination. It is the freedom from responsibility, the freedom from having to worry about the exacting problems of modern living, the freedom to leave such problems exclusively to the state, that is, to all-wise, all-knowing, and all-powerful politburo. It is the freedom to abdicate all personal and social responsibilities to a pure paternalism embodied in an absolute dispenser of bread and authority. The theory is that since men no longer find comfort and satisfaction in being trusted to think and act as men, the burden proving too heavy for them, let them be mice and remain mice as long as they are assured of physical existence. Self-reliance, enterprise, adventurousness become taboo and even illegal except for the state and the elite. That is a kind of freedom that a responsible educational leadership must assess for what it is worth, and warn us about. That is a kind of freedom that we must not confuse with freedom from fear and freedom from want.

Freedom is not meant to resolve and end all problems; it should enable us to convert every new problem into a fresh opportunity for growth and fulfillment, for building and for production.

If freedom is the great boon that we have been taught it is, then we must recognize that it is only authentic according as it requires commensurate individual and social responsibility.

Because we are in a critical period of nation-building, we need to be educated to the positive and creative aspects of freedom. Freedom is not merely to think, believe, or say anything we please. It is to so think and believe and act that we can advance the common good; that we can render barren ground fertile and productive; that we can secure and enjoy the good things of life without having to exploit, oppress, or condemn others to deprivation.

I should like to see our educational system and its dedicated leaders continue to train us and our children for this kind of freedom with creative responsibility and thus develop the kind of good society that will, in consequence, best nourish it to the service and enhancement of the common good.

I invite you to a careful and constant examination of the measure of your effectiveness in educating yourselves and our people for this freedom.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Inaugural Address of President Quirino

**Inaugural Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines**

[Delivered at the Independence Grandstand, Manila, on December 30, 1949]

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

The Republic of the Philippines was born in the shadow of a world war. Nurtured in democracy and reared in the midst of human anguish, it withstood the crushing impact of a major catastrophe from which every nation is still recovering to this day. Despite its infancy, it has played a respected role in the attainment of universal peace and security as the only guarantee of its continued existence.

It is most significant that, by constitutional mandate, the President and the Vice-President of the Republic should take their oaths of office at this noon hour on the anniversary of the martyrdom of the national hero of the Philippines, at the height of a season dedicated to the Savior of mankind and on the threshold of a New Year. The occasion is, therefore, both solemn and joyous, fraught with emotional undertones and permeated with the spirit of new resolves and fresh undertakings.

In such an atmosphere dominated by sobering thoughts, I invoke the spirit of this holy season and of this hallowed day and ground to express the fervent hope that this shall be, for all of us, a day of rebirth and renewal, of reassurance and reconsecration. Humbly now in full consciousness of my own limitations, I enter anew upon the duties of President of the Republic determined to shoulder the responsibilities of this high office as the instrument of the people's will and the servant of the public weal.

I place myself and my administration at the service of all the people without distinction as to creed, class, or station, and pledge my whole effort to the protection of their fundamental rights, the improvement of their livelihood, and the defense of their free institutions.

I make this pledge in the face of the most critical situations, confident that however great they may be, they shall not in the end prevail against the sturdy good sense, high courage, and tested patriotism of our people.

I have faith in the democratic process we have established and in the capacity of our people to perfect themselves in it. I have faith in their readiness to submit themselves to the rigorous discipline of civic duty and national unity. I therefore call upon all elements in the nation to join hands and to close ranks despite the political barriers that may separate them from one another. I trust that, forswearing the bitterness which political passion may have recently engendered, every citizen will accept his share in the common task of building the Republic as a necessary condition of our national survival.

To all who heed this appeal, I gave the solemn assurance that the Government shall not be wanting in generous appreciation and civic recognition. Sincerity will be met with an equal measure of sincerity, and voluntary submission to authority will be matched by a compassionate regard for the requirements of justice.

However, I feel it my painful duty to give stern warning that there shall be no abdication to the authority of the Government and that any defiance of this authority will not be tolerated, but shall be met relentlessly with all the forces at our command.

The start of this second quadrennium of our Republic gives us a good occasion to take stock. It is opportune to review the national picture for the purpose of creative revision and to indicate what has been accomplished so as to know what remains to be done.

We are building a new nation responsive to our people's genius and needs. Undoubtedly this genius is for freedom consistent with the satisfaction of the imperatives of civilized living and security within the setting given us by a generous Almighty. This means a recognition of possibilities and limitations. This gives allowance for wholesome doubt about our perfectibility and a degree of stubborn hopefulness regarding our capacity to achieve our goal.

In the first four years of our Republic we have achieved a measure of recovery and rebuilding originally expected in ten years. In spite of limited finances, we have discharged to a goodly extent our obligations to those who defended the country and worked loyally for it in the period of peril. We have merited the assistance of America by whose side we fought to preserve our common cherished institutions and way of life. With our resources, we have initiated a bold program of economic reconstruction and development, the fruits of which will accrue to generations after us. We have established an honored name in the councils of free peoples and have become identified not only with freedom and democracy but with their increasing extension to peoples long handicapped by foreign domination. Most important of all, we have established a Republic that commands respect and loyalty at home and inspires admiration abroad. We could not have done all these if we did not have spiritual strength, the basic intelligence, the moral and material resources, and above all the will which overcomes all obstacles.

We want our people to enjoy an increasing measure of social justice and amelioration of livelihood. This is not a matter solely of administration from above; it is a joint enterprise in which all of us work and help administrators and citizens, managers and workers, traders and toilers, producers and consumers. It is a constant endeavor calculated to achieve the end of every government — to secure the well-being and happiness of all the people.

We respect the inviolability of the human person. In our resistance to any totalitarian aggression from within and from without, the dignity of the human person is the crucial issue; and we have to be grateful for the heritage of a Christian culture that provides us the basic anchorage and the invincible armor as we make the stand against any attempt to reduce men to mere chattel.

Economic development has become the essential condition and pre-requisite of our survival as a free people in a democratic world. For the masses of our people, it matters little that democracy offers a philosophy superior to that of other systems, but it does not matter greatly to them that democracy establishes economic security as well as affirms the dignity of the human persons and secures individual rights.

We count on the goodwill and understanding, even assistance, of our neighbors, East and West, but we keep our sinews in trim for steady production in the spirit of self-help. We depend on our schools, our churches, our homes, to teach our young that the human personality rises to its full dignity when its possessor works and provides and gives without outward compulsion, and not when he stretches out his hand, palm upward.

Our conception of freedom includes national discipline guided by the public interest which is in constant demand of adjustments for the enjoyment of that freedom. Such measures as the restriction of firearms, the control of imports, and the regulation of exchange fall within the exigencies of our young democracy. Although the reaction to these measures among our people may be varied and new, their effectivity is not rigid; we have undergone more onerous expedients which we were able to survive in the past. Our citizens shall be heard and the application of these measures shall be relaxed where stability, efficiency, and the common good so demand.

It is clear that we must reorganize our administrative machinery with a view to securing greater efficiency, the improvement of the public service, and economy of means and effort in the discharge of the government's responsibilities, in order to make that machinery more responsive to public need within the limits of our available resources.

It is clear that we must stabilize the government's finances consistent with our ability to tap legitimate sources of revenue and the judicious outlay of funds to meet current and future needs, with open accountability for our obligations at home and abroad.

It is clear that we must constantly watch our economy, detect its weak points, undertake the corresponding measure to strengthen them, have the courage to develop our resources that make for increasing sufficiency, conserve the fluid assets that keep the steady flow of services and tools available only from abroad, and provide a broadening base of economic security for all.

It is clear that our people, individually and collectively, must keep their minds clear on the issues that tend to divide and disrupt, and must constantly improve their appreciation of those values which deserve their lasting allegiance and determine the stability of their cherished institutions. Our Republic can only be worth defending and preserving if it inspires the discipline which establishes a reasonable balance between liberty on one side and security and responsibility on the other. Our peace at home and our prestige abroad rest on the vigor of those loyalties which stamp us as free men whose self-interest encompasses the welfare and happiness of our fellows here and beyond our borders.

I repeat, our own program of economic development is essentially a program of self-help. We encourage our neighbors to do the same. We invite them to cooperate with us in an effort to coordinate the measures for our common full development. We must pull ourselves out of the treacherous morass of misery and want and assume a new dignity in our international relations. We must henceforth discard the old "superior-inferior" philosophy by honest-to-goodness work of the head and hand.

We share a common fate with our neighbors, and our free institutions will not flourish in a region of drought and barrenness. We therefore salute the newly-born United States of Indonesia and the emergence of India as a republic. Since the inauguration of our own Republic we have rapidly ceased to be an island of freedom and democracy among the once-called submerged and underprivileged peoples in Asia. Korea, Burma, Pakistan, and Ceylon have become free. Thus, along with other free peoples and peoples still to become free, we can join together within the framework of the United Nations, into a regional association given to the advancement of world peace and prosperity.

And so, in encouraging and assisting other peoples to be free on the basic principle of mutuality in the solution of our common social, economic, and cultural problems, we help to advance our own national interests. In taking this view, we are not guided by mere geopolitical consideration, anchored though we are in the bosom of the Orient for all eternity. But feeling that this is our proper and immediate field of action where we must fulfill our own destiny, we can help to advance the interests of the free democratic world by forestalling the entry of subversive ideas into this rich and populous region of Southeast Asia and the West Pacific.

We respect the right of our neighbors to choose freely their own system of government. In our relations with the Chinese people, with whom we have had such close contacts over many centuries, we shall maintain an open mind giving due heed to the requirements of our national security and the security of Asia as a whole. The Japanese people will play an important role in our part of the world, but we expect them sufficiently to repair the injuries they inflicted in a war of aggression, and we want to be convinced that they have sufficiently experienced a change of heart which will induce them not to repeat it but to cooperate instead in keeping our neighborhood peaceful, free, and prosperous.

The United States of America is still our best friend and we look to her to realize increasingly that, in this atomic age, her area of safety, and that of mankind as a whole, have no delimiting frontiers.

Here as elsewhere all over the world today, people live and move in an atmosphere of anxiety, still passing through a period of extraordinary tension and turbulence. They are constantly being harassed by a multiplicity of fears. If it is not inflation, it is of depression; and if it is not revolution, it is of invasion. If it is not of complacency and stagnation, it is of corruption.

It is no comfort to us that in this predicament we were not alone. It serves us naught to know that in this situation the whole world is kin. But we do not need to feel and be helpless about it. We must guard against the insidious paralysis of despair. And certainly, the alternative is not apathy. Neither is it "bahala na", the fatalism with which an Oriental justifies the many varieties of escapism and irresponsibility familiar to Orientals and Occidentals alike. The best answer to fear is to come to grips with it, to understand it for what it is so that we can take its measure. There is no better therapeutic against anxiety than purposeful activity to banish its causes.

While this country is ready to defend its liberty and freedom if threatened from without, we are decidedly against being willfully involved in any war and will take necessary measure to preserve our people for the constructive ways of peace. We harbor no evil designs against anyone and we take literally the injunction in our Constitution to forswear war as an instrument of national policy.

We have therefore consistently followed the policy of establishing friendly contacts with every nation, convinced that in international relations, friendship, goodwill and the spirit of helpfulness are not only the most economic and lasting sources of power and influence but the surest guarantees of security and universal peace.

And so whether it is inflation or depression, rebellion or threat of invasion, economic controls or corruption, let us address ourselves to them honestly and directly and exhaust every practical way to conquer them. We cannot leave this job alone to the President and the administration. We cannot leave this job to a few individuals, to special interests and privileged classes. Least of all can we leave this to God alone. We must, one and all, as individuals and as groups, take it upon ourselves to do our part. Together we must and can spread a contagion of courage and victory to the remotest hamlet and the humblest citizen of this country – each by undertaking the duty nearest to him.

This country will survive, not because I say so, but because our people have proved it in the past, are proving it now, and will prove it in the difficult years to come. It is part of our common heritage and experience which no one can take away that we are above fear when we are so absorbed in our positive task that we have no time for fear itself. As a people we have gone through the worst economic crises and vicissitudes in the past, but always we have been able to pool the moral and material resources necessary to survival. We cannot do less today and tomorrow. The next four years will be years of positive work and accomplishments.

I have no ambition but to see that this urge is fulfilled in the interest of our people. Our country, for which our heroes and martyrs gave their richest blood, deserves the best that we, who are its servants today, can give in lasting constructive performance. Our program of development and social amelioration may seem bold and ambitious, but why should we attempt anything less? I am determined and will not be swerved by personal or partisan considerations from any determination to see this program through.

Our people should not expect me to do anything but what is right, and I expect everyone to support me to the limit in this resolve. I shall give constant battle to graft and corruption and will not tolerate irregularities of any sort under whatever name. Buying one's way to any political preference, economic advantage, or social distinction will not be allowed. I want this point understood from the beginning so that individuals and party men who have other ideas and expectations will not be disappointed. Our country and people must believe in me and support me in this resolve, if I am to achieve any success in this direction.

I mean fully to fulfill my sworn duties as laid down by the Constitution. I will deal justly with every man and will welcome anyone with legitimate grievance to submit his complaints, if his rights are trampled upon. I am not committed to protect the rights of certain groups as against those of others, not to serve the special interests of anybody. Right and justice and the supreme interest of this country as the Almighty has given me to understand them shall be my one guide.

My countrymen, you elected me because you want me to serve the country well. Help me always to do so. Give me your light when my way is dark. Give me strength when you see me weaken. Give me courage always to do the right thing. Help me build for our people a new reputation for honesty and fair dealing. Help me establish a new integrity on our thinking, in our words, in our deeds. Let us be men, as the best of our breed have tried to be. Let us

be true to ourselves so that we cannot be false to any man or any people. Then we can know the right thing, and I, as your servant, can do the right thing for all the world to judge.

I have taken the oath of office with courage and confidence, because I know that the well-springs of our national strength are abundant and inexhaustible. Our history is the history of a growing and expanding nation, a nation that for four hundred years has kept green its love of liberty and ever fresh its desire for progress. I stake the success of my administration upon that record, and I ask you to draw with me upon the copious reserves of energy and patriotism which have sustained our nation through every crisis in its history.

I beseech you to vouchsafe full faith and cooperation in this hour of solemn investiture and patriotic commemoration.

Source: University of the Philippines College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Inaugural Address of President Quirino. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(12), 5380-5386.

Fifteenth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino to his fellow countrymen, January 15, 1950

**Fifteenth Monthly Radio Chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To his fellow countrymen**

[Broadcast from the President's room in John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, January 15, 1950]

My Dear Countrymen:

I am speaking from my bedroom at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, State of Maryland. I have never wished that I be closer to my people than at this moment. Every minute of my thought is of home and of the folks at home.

The innumerable messages of fervent wishes and prayers from friends at home and abroad for the full restoration of my health and the beautiful flowers that fill my modest hospital bedroom, touch my heart. The feeling of loyalty and affection that they convey is a veritable armor in my feeling of security.

I considered it my duty to come to the United States and seek the best medical treatment possible so that I may be physically equipped to meet my heavy responsibilities ahead. My trip has given me the opportunity to view our common domestic problems from afar. It has given me a better perspective of their relative weight and significance. I feel that what is most urgent and important at this time is for our people to have faith and confidence in our established institutions. It is my belief that the present disturbance in our neighborhood will not affect the stability of our nation, if we stand united and determined to foster and protect our integrity. We have not given cause to any nation to have evil designs in our country. We have no conflict with any nation. We have always been guided by a spirit of helpfulness to all, in the same manner that we have welcomed every assistance from friends and well-wishers. Under such circumstances, I feel and I am confident that, so long as we mind our own business in the promotion of our common welfare and in the growth and development of our country through peaceful means, we will be spared the trouble of having to defend our shores.

The apparent disequilibrium and economic and financial difficulties of the moment are but passing immediate reactions to temporary measures we have been constrained to adopt, in order to stabilize our economic and financial position. The ultimate solution of such problems being speedy and increased production, we would urge all our people, officially and privately, to concentrate all their creative energies on these problems. We must mutually develop and strengthen our faith in our future. There is more fear of economic debacle in bigger and older countries than in the Philippines today. Again we will demonstrate our capacity to adjust temporary dislocations in the economic and financial field. Concentration, foresight, confidence and determination to work harder, much harder than ever before, are our biggest assets in the solution of our present economic and financial problems. To secure all these, it is imperative that there be a moratorium in our political activities.

We have just gone through one of the most complicated political contests which have arrested the execution of our national program of action, and as the next election is still so far away, I would recommend that we do not disturb our populace with bitter political dissensions for the time being. There is no better way for you and me, and for all of us, to stay healthy and strong in the discharge of our civic and patriotic duties than to lay aside such activities or pastimes that have weakened us in the recent past in our endeavors for the stabilization of our national institutions.

Every irresponsible attempt to sow the seed of political dissension will undoubtedly weaken our effectiveness to strengthen our economic and financial structure at the time we badly need the spirit of oneness and cooperation to solve our immediate problems.

While we must be alert, vigilant and ready to resist any threat to our economic or political institutions from within as well as from without, I consider it wholly unpatriotic to divide our people in these critical moments. I, therefore, appeal that friends and foes alike in the political field should exert unselfish effort to find a common ground of action, for the welfare and happiness of our children.

I want to thank you all for your kind wishes and prayers that I recover soon. I shall not tarry in this country longer than what may be necessary for my complete restoration so that I can, with vigor and enthusiasm, continue to serve you all during the full term for which you have elected me as your President.

May God be with you always. Good night.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Fifteenth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino to his fellow countrymen. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(1), 35-37.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino upon his arrival from the United States, February 11, 1950

**Extemporaneous Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Upon his arrival from the United States**

[Delivered at the Manila International Airport, February 11, 1950]

My Dear Friends and Fellow Countrymen:

I thank you all for coming to receive me at the airport. Once again you have gone out of your way to show a kindly consideration to your President. Indeed, we almost did not see each other again. The ailment that compelled me to leave the country has nearly snatched me away from you. Thank God, He heeded your prayers and those of friends across the seas that my life may be preserved so that I may continue serving your interests. The distance, the longings, the sufferings and the apprehension of fatal danger have a wonderful effect upon the mind of one who, 10,000 miles away, tries always to remember his responsibilities and obligations to his country. They have caused a strange transformation in me, making me not only closer but more devoted to my country.

After going through the greatest ordeal in my life, I am happy with the knowledge that I am more fit physically and mentally, and shall I not also say, spiritually, to serve my country in every way.

Again I thank you all from the deepest recesses of my soul for your sincere good wishes and prayers that I may thus return to you. I am more determined than ever to devote the remaining portion of my years to your welfare and to the permanent interest of our country.

I come home more confident that I can discharge my duties very much better than if I had not left the country. My 34 days of absence from your midst has given me the greatest opportunity to study more intimately, even from afar, the situation in which our Republic is now placed under the precarious circumstances prevailing in the world, particularly around us.

I have had two occasions, first at tea at the Blair House and another at a conference at the White House, to review with President Truman the various phases of the established relationship between our country and the United States. It was a great opportunity not only to renew old friendships but to make mutual reiteration of loyalty and understanding between our two peoples. I have received assurances of America's continued concern for our welfare and of effective support in our efforts to secure our economic stability and to strengthen our national security.

I am therefore more encouraged and confident than ever before in guiding the course of this nation for the next four years. I am sure we will not fail in our endeavors if we but concentrate our attention with unity of purpose in the establishment of a life of order, of substance and of security.

Yes, I come home with a new lease of life and with a renewed faith in our future. And I assure you that you have a "renewed" President in many respects. At this, my grateful moment, I ask you to renew with me the faith and confidence in one another.

I thank you.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

**Speech of President Quirino upon his arrival from the United States Extemporaneous speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Upon his arrival from the United States**

[Delivered at the Manila International Airport, February 11, 1950]

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I come home more confident that I can discharge my duties very much better than if I had not left the country. My 34 days of absence from your midst has given me the greatest opportunity to study more intimately, even from afar, the situation in which our Republic is now placed under the precarious circumstances prevailing in the world, particularly around us.

I have had two occasions, first at tea at the Blair House and another at a conference at the White House, to review with President Truman the various phases of the established relationship between our country and the United States. It was a great opportunity not only to renew old friendships but to make mutual reiteration of loyalty and understanding between our two peoples. I have received assurances of America's continued concern for our welfare and of effective support in our efforts to secure our economic stability and to strengthen our national security.

I am therefore more encouraged and confident than ever before in guiding the course of this nation for the next four years. I am sure we will not fail in our endeavors if we but concentrate our attention with unity of purpose in the establishment of a life of order, of substance and of security.

Yes, I come home with a new lease of life and with a renewed faith in our future. And I assure you that you have a "renewed" President in many respects. At this, my grateful moment, I ask you to renew with me the faith and confidence in one another.

I thank you.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Extemporaneous speech of President Quirino upon his arrival from the United States. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(2), 409-410.

Sixteenth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino to his fellow countrymen, February 15, 1950

**Sixteenth Monthly Radio Chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To his fellow countrymen**

[Delivered on February 15, 1950]

My Fellow Countrymen:

From my sick-bed at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, I broadcast my last chat with you, It was on the eve of my operation which required confinement therein for exactly the same number of days as the late President Quezon's confinement for a similar operation fifteen years ago. Strange as it may seem, there were other coincidences in President Quezon's confinement and mine. We were operated on in the same hospital and both operations were successful. I was assigned the same room that President Quezon occupied and which henceforth the hospital administration called the "Presidential Suite."

Unlike President Quezon, however, I did not prepare my last will and testament before submitting to the operation. Unaware of the great danger, I was confident that God, heeding the prayers of my good people at home and those of friends across the seas, would pull me safely through. Besides, before I was placed under the scalpel, my surgeon, Doctor Colston, assured me that five days thereafter, I could broadcast my message on the State of the Nation to the Philippine Congress in Manila. Sure enough, three days after the operation, I was able to sit up, on the fourth day I worked on the message, and on the fifth I broadcast it from my sick-bed.

In reviewing now the various incidents from which I derived great lessons in life, I remember three events which stands out as important landmarks in my career. The first of these was my incarceration at Fort Santiago by the Japanese in 1943, from which experience I learned for the first time to appreciate fully the value of individual liberty. The second was when I lost my wife, three children and several members of my family during the battle for the liberation of Manila in 1945, as a consequence of which the lesson of submission to God's will and the healing power of the Lord's name was brought home to me. The third was when I experienced the gravest personal crisis in my life and barely escaped death in submitting myself to the operation at the Johns Hopkins hospital, which last event taught me how precious life is and how important that it be dedicated to great and worthwhile ends.

Incidents such as these in the life of man have their counterparts in the life of a nation. We who, as a people, have struggled long and hard for liberty, never fully knew how precious this boon is until we passed through the long night of the Japanese occupation and had to fight for our very existence as a nation. Peoples, like individuals, learn to value more and to enjoy better the fruits of their sacrifices only after going through a series of national tragedies. When they emerge triumphant over these tragedies, they become more confident of their future because of the trying experiences they have undergone.

Similarly, in a period of peaceful reconstruction, we cannot expect the road to be always smooth and pleasant. The road is often dark, bumpy and even perilous. Many a time it entails suffering and demands the sacrifice of many lives. The restrictive measures we have had to employ in order to stabilize our economy, such as the import control, the exchange control and other measures which are calculated to strengthen our ailing economy, are some of the sacrifices we have to undergo before the salutary effects of our reconstruction program can be properly evaluated. It takes time, of course, to appreciate and enjoy the beneficial results of such measures. But the life of a nation is not measured in terms of days, months, or even years. It is measured by generations and even by centuries. Our young Republic cannot be an exception to the laws governing the birth and growth of a national society. We must prepare ourselves for the difficult problems that are common to all peoples in the period of growing pains. Patriotism imposes upon us the obligation to be patient and determined, if we are to realize our mission of establishing sound and enduring democratic institutions in our country.

The most trying period in our peacetime national history has just set in. We have summoned the last resources of our national sinew, genius and vision to meet the tremendous difficulties ahead. This is no time to waste our precious moments in complaining, moaning, or even groaning against or under apparently insuperable odds. Such attitudes cannot help to advance our constructive efforts to make secure our national existence. In a period of reconstruction such as the present, when men throughout the world are working hard not only to recover from the great devastation brought by the last war, but to rise anew and build better than before in the face of possibility more serious situations in the future, it is necessary that we as a people, each and all, pool our individual efforts and together harness our collective strength to the tasks of reconstruction and development.

I therefore enjoin you all to get busy, to sharpen your minds and fortify your souls as you bend your muscles to the one task which is more important than any other—the task of production and yet more production. We are racing with time, and we cannot afford to dilly-dally. Inertia, stagnation, discouragement and lack of confidence in our future are our greatest enemies. We must drive them away from our homes, from our farms, from our factories, from the fair face of this land of ours. The responsibilities of this generation, of this administration, of us all individually and collectively, are much too serious to be taken lightly. I urge each and every inhabitant of this country to work harder in the common interest to stand up valiantly together in the face of the odds that confront this nation. In this way, we shall succeed in our present endeavors, even as we have always succeeded in the preceding stages of our national development. We must rule out failure as an alternative.

My Countrymen: I have never been more encouraged in guiding the course of this nation than after my last trip to the United States, where I could see from afar, objectively from a detached vantage-point, our national problems in their varied aspects and proper perspective. I had a splendid occasion to discuss with the powers-that-be in Washington the matter of our special relationship with the United States, the great country with whose destiny ours is so closely linked.

I consider it a rare opportunity to have been able to discuss with President Truman various matters relating to our economic and political, and even military security, and I am happy to report that America is still our great friend and ally, that she is proud of our achievements, that she has confidence in our continued existence as a free and prosperous nation. But we cannot, and we shall never, depend solely on the good wishes of our friends and benefactors. Our future—our destiny—is in our hands to make. To safeguard and advance it we must labor hard, fight hard, and be ready and willing to undergo any sacrifices. There is no reason why a self-relying and self-respecting nation like ours should fail in its mission, considering the abundant resources in material, intellect and vision that this country possesses.

Various agencies of the United States Government—economic and financial missions sent by world banking and financial institutions, congressional, committees and special investigators, who have made a general survey of conditions in the Philippines—all are of the same opinion that, basically, the economy of this country is strong and sound. On the other hand, we have the assurance that we would not be alone in this part of the globe should any threat endanger our democratic institutions or our national security. Under these circumstances, my friends, why should not you and I have faith and confidence in our future?

I recall to you our recent wartime experiences as a conquered and oppressed people only to convince you and the whole world that no sacrifices which we may be called upon to make today and tomorrow can be half as severe as those we endured during the Japanese occupation. Our nation survived, thank God, under a system which crippled our productive energies, completely cut off our imports and enabled the enemy to loot wantonly our resources and to confiscate for their own use a substantial part of our production. Some will say that we made these sacrifices under the iron necessities of war and for the sake of the supreme ideal of liberty, but I say to you that the peacetime measures which we have taken are necessitated no less by the iron law of survival and by the need of preserving freedom and democracy in our land.

My fellow countrymen, let us draw fresh hope and optimism from the favorable position in which we stand in comparison with the other nations of the world, new or old. My last words to you, therefore, at this moment are: optimism and confidence, work and endurance. And as they say in Spanish, “A mal tiempo buena cara.”

I thank you. *Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Quirino, E. (1950). Sixteenth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino to his fellow countrymen. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 46(2)*, 412-415.

Message of President Quirino, March 15, 1950

Seventeenth Radio Chat of President Elpidio Quirino, delivered at the Guest House over nationwide hookup, March 15, 1950:

My Fellow Countrymen:

I am addressing you this time from the mountain city of Baguio. It really does not matter where my voice comes from in order to reach the farthest corners of the Archipelago. The main thing is that I must reach you in an effort to acquaint you with present world conditions and our position relative to them.

Since we became independent in 1946, we have given the closest attention to our obligations as member of the international community. We have tried hard to achieve recognition for our Republic in this field and I think we have succeeded in our efforts. It may truthfully be said that, in the eyes of the civilized countries today, including the most powerful, the Philippines has won a respected place in the concert of free and sovereign states.

Our country is in the midst of a region which at this moment has become the focal point of international tension. During the last three decades following the first world war, the peoples of the world have been constantly besieged by the fear of war. Though the center of the conflict and fury was quite far from our region in the beginning, it kept advancing upon us steadily like a prairie fire, until we became involved in the conflagration of the second world war which devastated our country. We were caught practically unaware, and we underwent such suffering as we had never before experienced in our centuries of struggle for liberty. This explains why it is only in recent years that we have become seriously concerned about our stability and more conscious of our own responsibility for the maintenance of peace. Danger has come close again, our own national security is threatened, and our capacity for survival is being put to a severe test.

We now realize that we have a role to play in the prevention of war, principally because our region has become the new theatre of possible conflict. Asia is in the throes of political convulsion and our country lies close, very close indeed, to the center of disturbance. We find ourselves at the crossfire of embattled ideologies. Because we have chosen democracy as our way of life, our country has become a natural bridge between the east and the west as well as a vital outpost of freedom in the populous hinterland of Asia.

In our desire to play our role well, we conceived the idea of total economic mobilization, convinced that only thus can we secure for our people a life of substance and contentment that would raise living standards beyond reach of those who capitalize on human misery and suffering to further ends inimical to our chosen way of life. Our economic and security problems are not peculiar to us. We share them with all our neighbors. During the last three months, several measures have been taken to solve these problems.

Late last year, under the inspiration of President Truman's Point 4, the United Nations approved a program of technical assistance for underdeveloped areas. This would enable many countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America to benefit from the technical know-how of the more advanced countries and assist them in raising their standard of living. By methods of self-help and mutual help, these countries are expected to save themselves in time from the menace of subversive ideas. Studies are being made of a plan to constitute the Philippines into a demonstration area for this program, as envisaged by President Truman. Our country may thus be used as testing-ground for the effectiveness of economic measures to strengthen these nations against social threats from without.

On the political level, the members of the British Commonwealth recently met in Ceylon to thresh out problems of common concern. Soon afterwards, representatives of the State Department and American diplomatic envoys in Southeast Asia held secret meetings in Bangkok to reexamine United States policy in the face of the changed and changing political situation in the region. At the same time, the United States joint chiefs of staff met with General MacArthur in Tokyo presumably to review the whole strategic situation in the western Pacific as a result of the debacle in China. It is apparent that there is now taking place a careful readjustment of the objectives of United States diplomacy and military strategy in our part of the world. Furthermore, we observed that every attempt is

being made to harmonize the American and the British views on the critical situation in Southeast Asia, in order that a program of common action may be undertaken to resolve it.

We are, I wish to repeat, a vital factor in this program of planning and action. On this subject I need say no more than to assure you that our Government is fully, awake to its responsibilities. Careful preparations are being made to insure our cooperation in any move that may be taken, consistent with the means at our disposal, our existing obligations and our national interests. At the same time, everything humanly possible is being done not only to strengthen our national security but also to promote friendly relations between ourselves and other countries.

I have reviewed recent development in foreign affairs which are of direct concern to us in order to set at rest any misgivings which you may have on this score. It is proper that our people should give careful thought to this aspect of our program of national action, for no problem can be of greater concern to you than our survival as a free nation secure within its boundaries. Yet, in a certain sense, the subject of foreign affairs is somewhat removed from the immediate interest of the individual citizen.

Therefore, I would like to speak to you on the problem of war and security from a more intimate angle.

You hear a lot of talk nowadays about the danger of a new war with atomic bombs, hydrogen bombs and other weapons of mass extermination. You are reminded of the dangerous position we would occupy in the event of such a conflict. You hear also of the menace of a Communist invasion from across the seas.

While many question their existence as real or imminent dangers, we must, of course, recognize them. Having recognized them, our next duty is to cooperate with other nations to prevent them. This we are doing within the limits of our capacity. But there is a field close at hand on which we all can work. There are certain things we all can do, every citizen doing the job that is nearest to him.

While I invite you to cast your eyes beyond our border, I must also ask you to fix your eyes within. By "within" I mean not only within our national border and in our respective communities but also in our homes and within our hearts. More perilous than any war outside is the war which we must wage within ourselves. More decisive than any battle with an invading enemy is the battle that we must fight against the evil within ourselves.

For, of what use is the struggle we shall wage against the outside foe if we shall already have lost the struggle against the enemy within our hearts and minds? It will be like locking the door of the stable after the horse has been stolen. Security becomes meaningless. External defense becomes futile. We cannot save ourselves from destruction by the enemy unless, first of all, we have saved ourselves from the corrosive forces within our midst and within our souls.

Our enemies within are three: complacency, defeatism, and despair. To combat these enemies, we must bestir ourselves, morally and physically—morally, by acquiring the spiritual disciplines of civic duty and national unity, and physically, by engaging in every useful and productive enterprise in order to provide for every family food, clothing and shelter in an atmosphere of peace that inspires internal security.

My countrymen: Let us never forget the two bitter lessons which we have learned at such great cost: first, that freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us but a reward which we must win by positive effort; and second, that we should rely for our security more upon our internal defenses than upon military armaments.

Stronger, in the end, than any treaties of alliance or military armaments is the system of our internal defenses resting upon the civic consciousness of the individual citizen and the spirit of national unity which binds us together

as one. With this consciousness and this spirit, our defensive measures are strengthened a hundredfold; without them, no defenses of any kind will ever be good enough to protect us from external enemies.

We must build our front-line trenches in our communities, in our homes, in our hearts. Here is where we must make our stand against the really dangerous enemies of our country and our people. If we leave this front undefended, we are lost. For, like the “anay” the enemy bores secretly from within, a kind of spiritual “fifth column.” Once the national fibre is weakened, we are ripe for destruction.

But so long as we hold the virtues of personal integrity and love of fellowmen, nothing can harm us. We must never say, “So long as I am left alone at peace and security, my neighbors should take care of themselves,” for somehow, sometime, the danger to your next-door friend may eventually reach you—when it will be too late to defend yourself. So we must always be mindful of the welfare and security of the whole community. Never in our whole history as a nation has this civic duty become more imperative than at this stage of our development. So long as we make every Filipino home an arsenal of contentment and plenty and a citadel of peace and security, our nation is impregnable. Therefore, I say again that our strongest bulwarks against danger lie in the stout hearts of our people and in every home where dwell the spirit of loyalty and affection, and where generate a sense of civic duty and a feeling of security. Let this be our guide and motto from this day onward.

Good night.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Address of President Quirino at the opening day of the 11th Biennial Convention and 29th anniversary of the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the opening day of the 11th biennial convention and
29th anniversary of the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines**

[Read by Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista, March 31, 1950]

I regret that I am unable to be with you on the opening day of the 11th biennial convention and 29th anniversary of the National Federation of Women's Clubs of the Philippines. I regret it all the more because I am fully aware not only of the importance of this occasion but the vital role which this organization has played and will continue to play in the promotion of our nation's welfare.

This organization occupies a warm spot in the hearts of the Filipino people. During the past three decades it has established itself in a pre-eminent position in the field of community service and social welfare. It has created a network of affiliated clubs throughout the length and breadth of the Archipelago which, in the hands of an alert and skillful leadership, has become a weapon of great efficacy in developing a strong civic spirit and a sense of national unity among our people.

Our nation today is passing through a grave crisis. It is well for our people to realize that this crisis, arising from both material and spiritual causes, will require the closest cooperation between the people and their government to solve. This crisis has manifested itself in the shape of three major problems: the problem of peace and order, the problem of food production and total economic mobilization, and the problem of developing a new sense of honesty and integrity among all our people whether inside or outside the Government.

As head of the present administration I wish to pledge to you the unceasing and relentless effort of the Government to solve this three-fold problem vigorously, speedily and without fear or favor. Plans are afoot by which the Government hopes to bring a greater measure of peace and security throughout the land in the shortest possible time and without giving quarter to the lawless elements that are disturbing the national tranquility. We have initiated and are following up a program of economic development calculated to make our country self-sufficient in food supply and to increase our production of export commodities at least to pre-war levels if not beyond. Finally, the Government has embarked upon a policy of cleaning up graft and corruption, dishonesty and abuse, inefficiency and waste in our body politic.

I give you every assurance that my administration, in cooperation with the other branches of the Government, will prosecute these policies relentlessly until our goals are achieved.

At the same time, our people must be reminded that the Government is not omnipotent, that it cannot do all these things by its own efforts unaided by the masses of our people. The Government is merely the political organ for the execution of the popular will, and the potency and effectiveness of its efforts must depend ultimately on the degree of cooperation which the people vouchsafe to it.

Therefore, in a very real sense, it may be said that the responsibility for solving the present, national crisis rests equally upon the Government and upon the people themselves. I have no doubt that our people desire nothing more fervently than the three goals which I have just stated; namely, peace and order, economic security, and moral regeneration. The good society rests upon these three pillars and I am sure that I interpret our people's desires correctly when I place these three objectives at the head of our national program.

Since we are agreed that these are our three major, problems, I beseech you to give us your light and to lend us your strength towards their effective and speedy solution.

As we buckle down to this great task we should do well to indulge in a bit of self-criticism. The solution of our problems presupposes a capacity for positive action. Positive action, in turn, requires that we rid ourselves of three vices; namely, the vice of complacency by which some people are prone to accept existing evils in the hope that everything will turn out right in the end; the vice of “letting George do it,” by which some people, while recognizing the existence of evils, yet refuse to do anything about such evils themselves because they expect other men to do the job; and the vice of “niñgas cogon,” by which some people are moved to action by a short-lived reformatory zeal which dies out almost as soon as it is born.

I, for one, do not accept the theory that these traits are inherent in our people. We all have seen how our nation has passed with flying colors the test of blood and fire during the war and the occupation. The story of those tragic years is not a story of complacency, lethargy, and short-lived enthusiasm. It is a story, rather, of courage, aspiration and determination under seemingly insuperable odds. Our people have shown these qualities in every crisis of their history, and I am sure they have it in them to show these qualities again in the face of the serious problems that confront us.

The community service and social welfare organizations have a special responsibility in arousing and directing the energies of our people towards the solution of these problems. I look upon them as the loyal partners of the Government in the successful execution of our national program. I look with special interest and enthusiasm upon the efforts of the National Federation of Women’s Clubs of the Philippines to accomplish its share of this program. We have a right to expect that this organization of Filipino women, which draws its huge membership from every class of our society and from every nook and corner of the Archipelago, will evolve its own program of social action on a nation-wide scale which shall reinforce and support the efforts of the Government in this field.

You, my friends, have labored with us in the service of our people for nearly thirty years. You have developed a tradition of loyal service that has earned for your organization a special place of honor in the affections of our people. I take this opportunity to congratulate you most warmly on your past achievements and to call upon you to face with courage and enthusiasm the grave tasks which await to be done today and tomorrow.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Address of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, at the opening day of the 11th biennial convention and 29th anniversary of the National Federation of Women’s Clubs of the Philippines at the Escoda Memorial, March 31, 1950 [Read by Executive Secretary Teodoro Evangelista]. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(3), 915-917.

Address of President Quirino at the Commencement Exercises of the Far Eastern University

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Commencement Exercises of the Far Eastern University**

[Delivered on April 15, 1950]

Mr. President, Members of the Board of Trustees, of the Faculty and of the Student Body:

I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to express a few thoughts to the faculty and student body of this great institution during your commencement exercises. I know of no occasion more appropriate than this gathering of earnest and thoughtful young men and women where I can speak frankly and realistically of the actual conditions that surround our world today and demand our sober appraisal.

I address myself specially to you, my friends, who belong to a postwar generation. As such, I would suppose you to be remarkably free of certain popular pre-war illusions. The searing events of the past decade have burnt away the three-fold veil from before our eyes: the illusion of automatic plenty, the illusion of invincible freedom, and the illusion of eventual permanent peace.

Today we know that the values which we have been prone to take for granted are no longer ours for the asking. We know that we must labor and fight for each and every one of them, and that once achieved, we shall be able to keep them only by constant and positive effort.

In a more fortunate era, it was not always so. We took for granted the wealth of our land and the fruitfulness of our economy. Hard times never imposed upon us the severe hardships which they brought in countries with a less resilient economy. An easy-going nature fitted us perfectly for a life of comparative ease, and our faith in the inevitable return of plenty was never for long disappointed.

Whenever our struggle for liberty suffered reverses or seemed completely lost, we sought refuge in the conviction that justice and righteousness would emerge victorious in the end, and freedom would be ours. We had a mystical belief that good would triumph over evil as surely as day follows night. Therefore, there was no reason to be alarmed over the future of liberty. Liberty would win out in the end.

Our attitude towards local disorders was that, like tropical storms, they would do some damage and then pass. They were to be endured as recurrent infirmities of the body politic which medication of one kind or another would soothe if not cure. Our attitude towards war itself differed from this only in degree. War was a more terrible calamity to endure, but the eventual and ultimate triumph of peace was foreordained in our thinking.

These were the illusions of a more comfortable era. Insofar as they were born of an optimistic faith in the infinite capabilities of human nature, they may have served a useful purpose. But in most of our people, they bred complacency and resignation. They developed intellectual apathy instead of alertness, moral languor instead of assertiveness. The philosophy of God's in His heaven, all's right with the world," which suited the Oriental temperament, was embraced with uncritical enthusiasm.

Today, that "best of all possible worlds," wherein dwelt a previous generation comforted by its illusions, has been rudely shattered. We live in a very real world with no guarantees of any kind except those that accrue to every man or every nation as reward for effort actually expended and for work actually done. It is a world which has made it plain to all that it owes no one a living, that freedom is not necessarily invincible, that progress is not inevitable, that peace is not to be had by waiting that human survival may not be left to accident or chance.

I should perhaps not speak to you in such blunt and uninspiring terms on your commencement day. But if commencement means what it should, then it is certainly better, on this day of your coming out into the workaday world, that you know what kind of a world you are getting into, the better to meet its exactions and impositions, Forewarned is forearmed.

There is another reason why you must discard the rose-tinted glasses even as you revel in the joy of your graduation. The margin of personal success and national safety has become dangerously narrow. There is no time to be lost in wishful thinking. There is only time enough to recognize that this narrow margin exists and to work within its limits until they can be pushed outward by constant personal effort and national endeavor.

I have laid stress on personal effort because it is natural for those who, like the great majority of you, are young or working students, to measure achievement in terms of personal success. It is equally natural that they should measure success in terms of securing a job, making a living, and getting on in the world. It has always been thus and it is still so today. The only difference—and it is a very important difference—is that the world has become less hospitable to struggling and ambitious youth than it used to be.

Throughout the world as a whole, this has been due to a variety of causes including over-population, diminishing resources, the increasingly acute competition among individuals for a living, social insecurity, political instability, armed disturbance, the disruption of trade, the severe economic dislocation brought on by the last war, and the fear of a new war which has hampered the normal pursuits of the people and imposed upon them the crushing burden of armaments. In our country, all these unfavorable conditions exist in a measure with the exception of the first two. It is of importance to note that our country is exempt precisely from those conditions which are more or less of a permanent character and are therefore difficult to remedy. We have abundant resources and living space enough to absorb the pressure of an increasing population in any foreseeable future. On the other hand, we share with the rest of the world the temporarily political and economic conditions arising from the virtual anarchy of the postwar period and the haunting fear of a far more terrible war than the last.

This is the kind of world which you are about to enter. There are many things wrong with it, and it is definitely not the best of all possible worlds. But it is the only world we have, and we must put up with it until we can make it better.

Yet, even in this kind of world, we must consider our country and ourselves' as rather more fortunate than many others. If there is want and privation among us, it is not the dreary, oppressive, soul-twisting sort that you find in the exhausted and over-populated lands. We have fertile land for all who will apply themselves to this primary source of the national wealth. We shall soon produce food staples sufficient for our needs, and our principal export commodities are approaching normal production. We have the possibilities of a modest industrial development that will create jobs for our people and provide us with a substantial portion of our national requirements in manufactured goods. Our financial reserves are increasing again, thanks to the controls that have been imposed and are still in operation.

What I am trying to show is that the ills which beset our particular corner of the world are susceptible of solution by peaceful and orderly efforts aided at home by civil obedience and outside by men of good will. The problems of disrupted trade, economic dislocation, and fear of a new war can be solved only by methods of international cooperation. By direct government-to-government action or through the efforts of the United Nations and its various agencies these problems are being studied and remedies proposed. That our Government is taking active part in this extremely important undertaking is well known to you. But this policy can be successfully prosecuted only with the enlightened encouragement and effective support of our people.

The problems of social insecurity, political instability, and armed disturbance are not peculiar to our country. But they are the sort of problems that will be solved only by our own efforts, by all of us working together as a team, by the people supporting the Government earnestly and faithfully in its endeavors to promote the general welfare. For, in a democracy, the people and the Government are one, and it is a mistake for the citizens to stand apart from the Government as if it were an entity distinct and separate from themselves.

From the forum of this great University, I make this appeal to reason and common sense. For it is appropriate that in this temple of learning we should stifle the strident voice of passion and employ only the measured accents of intelligence and truth. I ask you to look at the facts objectively and dispassionately in order that you may properly discern the good and the evil, and thus bring truth into better focus for the benefit of the unenlightened.

Let us consider some of the evils which we are uprooting now, like nepotism and bribery, graft and corruption. We must be honest with ourselves and admit that these are symptoms of a moral weakness that has long remained uncorrected. They are our heritage from pre-existing social systems and may not be imputed to 'any single generation, much less to any particular government administration. God knows that I, for one, have been doing my best to rid this Government of these evils, sacrificing friends and supporters to perform my sworn duty as head of this nation. But we must realize that these evils cannot be eradicated overnight, however hard we try. Only by constant vigilance and the systematic reconstruction of the national character, the fundamental renovation of the national soul, and the inculcation of a high sense of loyalty to public trust in men elected or appointed to public office, can we hope to eliminate eventually this scourge which afflicts us. The redemption of the race from this burden of sin can be more definitely accomplished by and through the younger generation by itself accepting its part of the task as we, the older, do our own. I therefore enjoin them to pick up this challenge right now. They must refuse from the beginning to associate with people of questionable character for in the long run and in the eyes of God and man it is people of unimpeachable character that achieve real success in this world.

Another instance is the exercise of civil liberties. Ours is a free country and the civil liberties guaranteed by our Constitution are in full force. There shall be no undue impairment of these freedoms so long as I am President. One of the greatest of these freedoms is the right of free speech, and its corollary, the right to criticize the Government.

But the exercise of this right entails certain obligations. Whoever wields the weapon of criticism has the obligation to do so in good faith, to know all the facts and to give them without malice and without prejudice, and above all, without sacrificing the very name, dignity and prestige of the nation and our people.

Criticism is one of the supreme prerogatives of the citizens of a democracy. But criticism must begin with self-criticism, and in a democracy it is best and most effective when it assumes this character. By this I mean that the critic must come forward with clean hands. He must start from the premise that as a loyal citizen he is himself directly involved in the object of his criticism, that he accepts his role as a participant and not as mere spectator of the drama of our national life, that he is willing to assume his share of the responsibility' for the evil as well as the good that is to be found therein. Only by showing such an attitude is the critic morally justified in exercising this fundamental right and entitled to be heard by all men of good will. Otherwise, criticism becomes irresponsible fault-finding, an appeal to passion, and an incitement to hysteria.

I must ask you especially to beware of the embittered and disillusioned who like to sulk in the Olympian heights and would not see anything but evil in others or speak except in a voice of dire prophecy and acidulous condemnation.

Whenever evil and misfortune befall our nation, they are content to come out and say: "I told you so!" They seem to be gratified when their gloomy predictions come true. They seem to derive satisfaction from the unhappiness for our people. They will point the finger of scorn at the Government, but will not lift a finger to assuage the misfortune or remedy the evil, not even if their own towns and homes are being burned and sacked and their innocent brethren killed before their very eyes. They are not unlike rocks that have fallen from the mountain-side to the river-bed where they obstruct the flow of the current and gather sediment and dirt, or the water-lilies that grow and flourish in the placid waters but at the same time clog the stream of our national life.

I challenge these men to come forward and, with all sincerity and determination, according to their repeated professions of love of country and readiness to defend, protect and promote our people's welfare, offer their shoulders to the national wheel and thus help strengthen, with their avowed intellectual and moral vigor, their own nation which they claim is weakening. Our people have a right to expect that they be ready to assume their patriotic role in accordance with their avowals. This is the best test of their real love of country and their fellowmen, tens of thousands of whom are now suffering because of the apparent withholding of the former's cooperation in the establishment of domestic tranquility so necessary to our national security.

My friends: I have spoken to you with candor. I call upon the sons and daughters of this University, as I call upon all the elements of the nations, to lend their talent and their genius to the great task of building up this nation. No group of men considers itself adequate to undertake this tremendous task alone nor to have the monopoly of clearness of vision and patriotism.

Our task is in progress, so it is not as if you will start from scratch. Behind you lie many historic milestones marking the objectives our people have already achieved: nationalism, self-government and democracy, freedom and independence, international prestige and personality. But before us lie other goals: economic sufficiency and development, domestic tranquility, and national security.

I summon you to the unfinished task of making this Republic the happy home of a loyal and contented people. We need your strength and your vision to carry on this work. After all, this edifice which is rising will be your dwelling place and your children's long after we are gone. We who are older are building for tomorrow, and tomorrow is yours.

The young have vision and the old have dreams. It will be a noble mansion that shall rise on the blueprint of your vision and our dream. But between the laying of the cornerstone and the finished structure lie many years of unremitting labor—the piling of stone on stone—until the building is completed.

Give us of the abundance of your energy, of the quickness of your intelligence, of the purity of your moral sense, and of the freshness of your vision, that this task may be done in the spirit that has made our race endure through the centuries, rising by painful degrees from subjection to freedom and dignified nationhood.

And may I repeat what I said on my inauguration: “Help me always to do the right thing. Help me build for our people a new reputation for honesty and fair dealing. Help me establish a new integrity in our thinking, in our words, in our deeds. Let us be men, as the best of our breed have tried to be. Let us be true to ourselves so that we cannot be false to any man or any people. Then we can know the right thing and I, as your servant, can do the right thing for all the world to judge.”

In return I renew my pledge to consecrate the rest of my life to your welfare and happiness and that of our people.

*Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library***

Quirino, E. (1950). Address of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, at the Commencement Exercises of the Far Eastern University, Manila, on April 15, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(4), 1507-1512.

Message of President Quirino at the Commencement Exercises of the Far Eastern University, April 15, 1950

Address of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, at the Commencement Exercises of the Far Eastern University, Manila, on April 15, 1950:

Mr. President, Members of the Board of Trustees, of the Faculty and of the Student Body:

I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to express a few thoughts to the faculty and student body of this great institution during your commencement exercises. I know of no occasion more appropriate than this gathering of earnest and thoughtful young men and women where I can speak frankly and realistically of the actual conditions that surround our world today and demand our sober appraisal.

I address myself specially to you, my friends, who belong to a postwar generation. As such, I would suppose you to be remarkably free of certain popular pre-war illusions. The searing events of the past decade have burnt away the three-fold veil from before our eyes: the illusion of automatic plenty, the illusion of invincible freedom, and the illusion of eventual permanent peace.

Today we know that the values which we have been prone to take for granted are no longer ours for the asking. We know that we must labor and fight for each and every one of them, and that once achieved, we shall be able to keep them only by constant and positive effort.

In a more fortunate era, it was not always so. We took for granted the wealth of our land and the fruitfulness of our economy. Hard times never imposed upon us the severe hardships which they brought in countries with a less resilient economy. An easy-going nature fitted us perfectly for a life of comparative ease, and our faith in the inevitable return of plenty was never for long disappointed.

Whenever our struggle for liberty suffered reverses or seemed completely lost, we sought refuge in the conviction that justice and righteousness would emerge victorious in the end, and freedom would be ours. We had a mystical belief that good would triumph over evil as surely as day follows night. Therefore, there was no reason to be alarmed over the future of liberty. Liberty would win out in the end.

Our attitude towards local disorders was that, like tropical storms, they would do some damage and then pass. They were to be endured as recurrent infirmities of the body politic which medication of one kind or another would soothe if not cure. Our attitude towards war itself differed from this only in degree. War was a more terrible calamity to endure, but the eventual and ultimate triumph of peace was foreordained in our thinking.

These were the illusions of a more comfortable era. Insofar as they were born of an optimistic faith in the infinite capabilities of human nature, they may have served a useful purpose. But in most of our people, they bred complacency and resignation. They developed intellectual apathy instead of alertness, moral languor instead of assertiveness. The philosophy of "God's in His heaven, all's right with the world," which suited the Oriental temperament, was embraced with uncritical enthusiasm.

Today, that "best of all possible worlds," wherein dwelt a previous generation comforted by its illusions, has been rudely shattered. We live in a very real world with no guarantees of any kind except those that accrue to every man or every nation as reward for effort actually expended and for work actually done. It is a world which has made it plain to all that it owes no one a living, that freedom is not necessarily invincible, that progress is not inevitable, that peace is not to be had by waiting, that human survival may not be left to accident or chance.

I should perhaps not speak to you in such blunt and uninspiring terms on your commencement day. But if commencement means what it should, then it is certainly better, on this day of your coming out into the workaday world, that you know what kind of a world you are getting into, the better to meet its exactions and impositions. Forewarned is forearmed.

There is another reason why you must discard the rose-tinted glasses even as you revel in the joy of your graduation. The margin of personal success and national safety has become dangerously narrow. There is no time to be lost in wishful thinking. There is only time enough to recognize that this narrow margin exists and to work within its limits until they can be pushed outward by constant personal effort and national endeavor.

I have laid stress on personal effort because it is natural for those who, like the great majority of you, are young or working students, to measure achievement in terms of personal success. It is equally natural that they should measure success in terms of securing a job, making a living, and getting on in the world. It has always been thus and it is still so today. The only difference—and it is a very important difference—is that the world has become less hospitable to struggling and ambitious youth than it used to be.

Throughout the world as a whole, this has been due to a variety of causes including over-population, diminishing resources, the increasingly acute competition among individuals for a living, social insecurity, political instability, armed disturbance, the disruption of trade, the severe economic dislocation brought on by the last war, and the fear of a new war which has hampered the normal pursuits of the people and imposed upon them the crushing burden of armaments. In our country, all these unfavorable conditions exist in a measure with the exception of the first two. It is of importance to note that our country is exempt precisely from those conditions which are more or less of a permanent character and are therefore difficult to remedy. We have abundant resources and lining space enough to absorb the pressure of an increasing population in any foreseeable future. On the other hand, we share with the rest of the world the temporarily political and economic conditions arising from the virtual anarchy of the postwar period and the haunting fear of a far more terrible war than the last.

This is the kind of world which you are about to enter. There are many things wrong with it, and it is definitely not the best of all possible worlds. But it is the only world we have, and we must put up with it until we can make it better.

Yet, even in this kind of world, we must consider our country and ourselves as rather more fortunate than many others. If there is want and privation among us, it is not the dreary, oppressive, soul-twisting sort that you find in the exhausted and over-populated lands. We have fertile land for all who will apply themselves to this primary source of the national wealth. We shall soon produce food staples sufficient for our needs, and our principal export commodities are approaching normal production. We have the possibilities of a modest industrial development that will create jobs for our people and provide us with a substantial portion of our national requirements in manufactured goods. Our financial reserves are increasing again, thanks to the controls that have been imposed and are still in operation.

What I am trying to show is that the ills which beset our particular corner of the world are susceptible of solution by peaceful and orderly efforts aided at home by civil obedience and outside by men of good will. The problems of disrupted trade, economic dislocation, and fear of a new war can be solved only by methods of international cooperation. By direct government-to-government action or through the efforts of the United Nations and its various agencies, these problems are being studied and remedies proposed. That our Government is taking active part in this extremely important undertaking is well known to you. But this policy can be successfully prosecuted only with the enlightened encouragement and effective support of our people.

The problems of social insecurity, political instability, and armed disturbance are not peculiar to our country. But they are the sort of problems that will be solved only by our own efforts, by all of us working together as a team, by the people supporting the Government earnestly and faithfully in its endeavors to promote the general welfare. For, in a democracy, the people and the Government are one, and it is a mistake for the citizens to stand apart from the Government as if it were an entity distinct and separate from themselves.

From the forum of this great University, I make this appeal to reason and common sense. For it is appropriate that in this temple of learning we should stifle the strident voice of passion and employ only the measured accents of intelligence and truth. I ask you to look at the facts objectively and dispassionately in order that you may properly discern the good and the evil, and thus bring truth into better focus for the benefit of the unenlightened

Let us consider some of the evils which we are uprooting now, like nepotism and bribery, graft and corruption. We must be honest with ourselves and admit that these are symptoms of a moral weakness that has long remained uncorrected. They are our heritage from pre-existing social systems and may not be imputed to any single generation, much less to any particular government administration. God knows that I, for one, have been doing my best to rid this Government of these evils, sacrificing friends and supporters to perform my sworn duty as head of this nation. But we must realize that these evils cannot be eradicated overnight, however hard we try. Only by constant vigilance and the systematic reconstruction of the national character, the fundamental renovation of the national soul, and the inculcation of a high sense of loyalty to public trust in men elected or appointed to public office, can we hope to eliminate eventually this scourge which afflicts us. The redemption of the race from this burden of sin can, be more definitely accomplished by and through the younger generation by itself accepting its part of the task as we, the older, do our own. I therefore enjoin them to pick up this challenge right now. They must refuse from the beginning to associate with people of questionable character for in the long run and in the eyes of God and man it is people of unimpeachable character that achieve real success in this world.

Another instance is the exercise of civil liberties. Ours is a free country and the civil liberties guaranteed by our Constitution are in full force. There shall be no undue impairment of these freedoms so long as I am President. One of the greatest of these freedoms is the right of free speech, and its corollary, the right to criticize the Government.

But the exercise of this right entails certain obligations. Whoever wields the weapon of criticism has the obligation to do so in good faith, to know all the facts and to give them without malice and without prejudice, and above all, without sacrificing the very name, dignity and prestige of the nation and our people.

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I challenge these men to come forward and, with all sincerity and determination, according to their repeated professions of love of country and readiness to defend, protect and promote our people's welfare, offer their shoulders to the national wheel and thus help strengthen, with their avowed intellectual and moral vigor, their own nation which they claim is weakening. Our people have a right to expect that they be ready to assume their patriotic role in accordance with their avowals. This is the best test of their real love of country and their fellowmen, tens of thousands of whom are now suffering because of the apparent withholding of the former's cooperation in the establishment of domestic tranquility so necessary to our national security.

My friends: I have spoken to you with candor. I call upon the sons and daughters of this University, as I call upon all the elements of the nation, to lend their talent and their genius to the great task of building up this nation. No group of men considers itself adequate to undertake this tremendous task alone nor to have the monopoly of clearness of vision and patriotism. Our task is in progress, so it is not as if you will start from scratch. Behind you lie many

historic milestones marking the objectives our people have already achieved nationalism, self-government and democracy, freedom and independence, international prestige and personality. But before us lie other goals: economic sufficiency and development, domestic tranquility, and national security.

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And may I repeat what I said on my inauguration: “Help me always to do the right thing. Help me build for our people a new reputation for honesty and fair dealing. Help me establish a new integrity in our thinking, in our words, in our deeds. Let us be men, as the best of our breed have tried to be. Let us be true to ourselves so that we cannot be false to any man or any people. Then we can know the right thing and I, as your servant, can do the right thing for all the world to judge.”

In return I renew my pledge to consecrate the rest of my life to your welfare and happiness and that of our people.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Eighteenth monthly radio chat of President Quirino to his fellow countrymen

Eighteenth monthly radio chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines To his fellow countrymen

[Delivered at the Guest House, Baguio City, April 15, 1950]

My Fellow Countrymen:

Today marks the second anniversary of the death of the late President Manuel Roxas. It also marks the completion of two years of my stewardship of our national affairs. In wisdom and in brilliance of mind President Roxas was the peer of the best that any country has produced. He had a noble vision of what our nation should be. As the first President of the Republic, he gave freely of himself in order that the measures looking towards the realization of that vision might be initiated.

On this day of solemn commemoration it is fitting that we look back to see how much of the task we set out to do has been accomplished, and rededicate ourselves to the completion of that which still remains to be done. The best tribute we can render to President Roxas' memory is to carry on the work that he began.

In an address I gave this afternoon to the graduating classes of the Far Eastern University, I had occasion to dwell on our efforts to establish domestic tranquility and to eradicate corruption in the Government. It may not be surprising that at this very moment you will hear my address being broadcast while I am also delivering this radio chat to you. I would like to use our time this evening to review our work on the development of the national economy, especially in the question of production, not in terms of mere planning but in actual accomplishments as a result thereof.

It should now be trite to state that when we took over the reins of government in 1946 our country was literally prostrate from the physical destruction we sustained from the war. Production activity in all industries except copra had been paralyzed. There was no base upon which government revenues could be collected. The Government was consequently operating almost consistently on deficits since then. Living costs, especially for the wage-earner, were very high. Destitution during the occupation led to a tremendous pressure for consumption goods upon liberation. A large circulation of money had developed as a result of United States war expenditures in the Philippines. Because of destroyed production facilities on the one hand, and the great demand for consumption commodities on the other, this circulation only helped to generate an uncontrolled flow of unprecedented imports. So large were our imports that payments for them not only counterbalanced our money receipts from abroad but also actually began cutting into our exchange reserves.

With characteristic vigor, President Roxas addressed himself to these problems. Banking and credit institutions were rehabilitated. To set the productive processes in motion, crop loans were immediately granted. The former Agricultural and Industrial Bank was reorganized into the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation and provided ample capitalization to enable it to meet the purpose of its reorganization. A budgetary loan was secured from the United States to assist governmental operations. Surveys of the country's financial, agricultural, industrial, power, transport and communications, and other problems were conducted. The rebuilding of our destroyed productive facilities was started. At his death, he had broadly outlined the plans for the rehabilitation and development of the national economy and had taken the steps to organize the instrumentalities to implement these plans.

Where do we stand today, two years after his death? That I would like in general manner to dwell upon in these few moments remaining of my allotted time. Upon my assumption of office, I conceived it to be my duty to carry forward the great work he had left unfinished, and invigorate it. The rehabilitation of our productive facilities had been slow while our consumption imports were increasing at a fast pace. The gap between our payments for imports and our receipts for exports was widening. Our external reserves were declining at an alarming rate. Our revenue

collection activities had produced satisfactory results but they could not keep pace with the ever-increasing demand for elemental public service which the Government was in duty bound to meet.

We, therefore, embarked upon a policy of coordinated, total economic mobilization program. It sounds ambitious, but we have just made it a decided start. Legislation that would enable the Government to accelerate the rehabilitation of our productive industries was secured. The Central Bank was organized. Priorities were established to ensure the judicious use of funds for economic development. Studies made showed that the restoration of our productive capacity at least to pre-war levels would solve our difficulties in external finance.

I have, therefore, seen to it that the use of all available development funds be geared to that purpose. I have authorized the release of ₱385,000,000 for the rehabilitation principally of rice, corn, coconut, sugar, abaca, tobacco, ramie, jute, fishery, forestry, livestock, transport and communications, mining, and other industries.

As a result, we have already exceeded pre-war production levels in coconut and coconut products, pineapple, lumber, chromite, and manganese. We are reaching out for prewar levels in sugar, abaca, gold, tobacco, forest products, embroideries, iron ore, copper, and cement.

The production of rice, corn, beans and vegetables, cacao and coffee, fruits and nuts, root and other food crops was at the lowest level of 2,500,000 metric tons in 1946. Last year our production increased to nearly 4,000,000 metric tons, already 13 per cent above the pre-war level of 1938, the peak year. Our rice production of 1,600,000 metric tons in 1946 rose to 2,500,000 metric tons in 1949, already in excess of pre-war production. So, although our population today is almost 4,000,000, or 25 per cent more than that of a decade ago, we have already produced 89 per cent of our total consumption requirements with our present population. Before the war, when we were only 16,000,000, our highest production barely reached 75 per cent of our consumption requirements.

Our corn production rose from 331,000 metric tons in 1946 to 534,000 metric tons in 1949, only 7 per cent below the 1940 level when our country was already self-sufficient in corn.

In beans and vegetables, we have made similar progress, increasing production to 61,000 metric tons in 1949, 153 per cent of the pre-war level. In the same year, however, we still imported 32,000 metric tons of fresh cabbages, garlicks, onions, asparagus, cauliflower, and a score of other items which this year we had to place under import control to further stimulate local production.

In fruits and nuts, we produced 280,000 metric tons last year, 8 per cent above the highest level in 1938. In spite of that, however, we still imported ₱26,000,000 worth of fresh oranges, apples, grapes, pears, and similar fruits. I could continue citing examples of increase in production in the number of our carabaos, our cattle, our hogs, and our poultry. Sufficient it is to say that in all these items we have decidedly increased our production and I foresee that in the near future, we will be self-sufficient in supply in our consumption of all these products, especially with regards to hogs, poultry, etc.

In fish, our pre-war production of 271,000 metric tons went down to 47,000 metric tons in 1946. We have since progressed very substantially in this direction, increasing our production to 227,000 metric tons in 1949, although still only 84 per cent of the 1940 level. A notable feature in this respect, however, is the fact that today the industry is almost exclusively in the hands of our own nationals, whereas before the war we hardly had a 15 per cent participation in it. We must continue in our efforts towards self-sufficiency in this product, for in 1949 we still imported 43,000,000 kilograms of fish products valued at around 34 million pesos.

In transportation, notable accomplishments have also been made. The 1941 line of the Manila Railroad Company extending 1,140 kilometers had been so badly damaged that only 480 kilometers could be rehabilitated with wooden bridges by the United States Army up to 1946. In 1949 we had restored 902 kilometers of track line and temporary bridges were all practically replaced by permanent constructions. Rolling stock of the Company, which suffered 70 per cent destruction, is gradually being brought back to pre-war standing.

In road construction, we have increased our kilometrage during the past two years by 14.8 per cent pre-war, from 22,000 kilometers in 1940 to 26,354 in 1949.

Inter-island shipping was being done before the war on 1,700 registered steamers, steam launches, and other vessels, with a net tonnage of 96,800. In 1949 the number had increased to 3,898 with an aggregate tonnage of 220,000.

In the field of air transportation, a remarkable growth during the past three years has taken place. The Philippine Air Lines has not only increased the number of passengers tremendously, but has made a tremendous publicity to the credit and prestige of the Philippines all throughout the world because of its efficient service.

In building construction, it is sufficient to state that in 1949 we were constructing 5 ½ times more buildings than in 1937. As I said just a moment ago, the time allotted me this evening does not permit me to tire you with more statistics regarding our progress in land development, irrigation, general trade and commerce matters, etc., but it must be sufficient to say that despite the much publicized troubled conditions brought about by keen political conflicts ever since we established our new Republic and the armed disturbances every now and then we have made remarkable strides in our economic development and have kept our hands steady at the production wheel.

We have reason to face our future with great confidence. We have succeeded in stopping the decline of our international reserves. The over-all production level is on the increase, not only in food crops to the point of near self-sufficiency, but also in a number of export industries.

We are definitely increasing the production of the principal items which enter the worker's cost of living such as rice, corn and other cereals, vegetables, poultry, fish. I can say safely that nowhere in the Philippines is there starvation, with sufficiency of food and the probability of increased production thereof. And the prices of uncontrolled import articles and those locally produced have begun to settle down to normal after opportunistic profiteering has calmed down.

With the drain in our international reserves arrested, black-marketing of dollars and other activities calculated to undermine the value of our currency has subsided. And with our control measures a more balanced and basically stronger economy is beginning to evolve. Thus, I express the feeling that we have been able to weather the major crisis we expected.

I am confident that with more civic spirit, sound common sense, and determination of our people to work harder and cooperate more energetically in the realization of our development program, we shall withstand the severe tests of our economic stability. The essential thing is for all of us during these critical moments to exert our utmost to ensure domestic tranquility so that we can concentrate our attention on our productive efforts.

My fellow countrymen, I make this as a last appeal. All of you be calm. Be guided by the strongest civic spirit, and cooperate with the Government in its effort to establish peace and order to insure domestic tranquility so that we can secure also not only our economic security but the stability of the Republic, whose liberty and freedom we now enjoy under its blessing.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Eighteenth monthly radio chat of President Quirino to his fellow countrymen. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(4), 1512-1516.

**Message of President Quirino on Labor Day Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On Labor Day**

[Delivered on May 1, 1950]

I welcome this opportunity to greet you on this day which is sacred to the working-men of this country and throughout the world.

I rejoice with you on the commemoration of this historic day. It is with pride that I trace my own humble origins to your ranks. I ask you to accept this fact as an assurance of my sincere and abiding interest in your welfare and my desire to keep open to the man who toils all opportunities for honest advancement from the lowest to the highest position in the land.

Our present era is truly the era of the common man. In the civilized world today, no social development is more significant than the organized efforts of the workers assisted by the state to improve their living conditions. Our own Constitution was drafted and promulgated in the light of this universal development, and the principles of social justice enshrined therein provide a healthy norm for the conduct of our economic and social life.

It is by virtue of its social justice provisions that our organic law ranks with the most enlightened constitutions of modern times. It reflects the problems and issues that are of deep concern to modern man—the security of his livelihood, the assurance of proper working conditions and adequate wages with which to support himself and his family under decent standards of life.

As head of this nation, I am pledged to the faithful observance of these principles. As you are aware, my administration, pursuant to these principles and faithful to the program of social justice formulated since the time of President Quezon, has been sympathetic to all reforms tending to improve the lot of the workingman,

This policy will continue. There shall be no turning back on our program of social justice.

I would now like to draw your attention to certain aspects of the labor movement in our country which require your most careful consideration. I believe the time has come when Philippine labor should pause and with full sense of responsibility consider how it would better fit itself into the economic pattern just evolving. It will profit you greatly to know how far labor has progressed, where it stands at the present moment, and how best its gains and advances may be consolidated. I am sure that, after careful self-reexamination, labor will have a better understanding of its role in our program of economic rehabilitation and development.

Many are wont to believe that the lot of the workers can be improved only by increasing wages and salaries and directly providing for the betterment of the working conditions of the masses. Of course, these are direct benefits accruing to the laboring class. But we forget that there are many other ways by which the same result of raising the standard of living of the common man may be achieved. For instance, when we exert efforts to produce mere rice, thus reducing the price of this prime commodity, we are, in effect, raising the purchasing power of the laborer to acquire other things to improve his standard of living. Also when we create more jobs, we increase the field of choice for labor, benefiting both those actually employed and those seeking employment.

Again, when we impose import control on goods that can be produced locally, we encourage local industries and factories which in time will absorb back the labor of those whose services may have been dispensed with by the importing establishments. In the end, therefore, the number of workers who are employed in the new factories more than offsets the loss of jobs in the importing houses. Or, when we encourage the development of a home industry and help develop a market for its products abroad, we are, in fact, widening the opportunity of the workingman to sell his labor at home as well as abroad.

Thus, there are many hidden factors which only indirectly help to improve the lot of the workingman, yet whose far-reaching effects outweigh the direct benefits accruing to the laboring class in the form of increased wages or salaries, or by means of direct legislation to better the conditions of the workers.

Our program of total economic mobilization envisages the strengthening of all these factors in order to make secure not only the livelihood of the workingman but the economic stability of the nation.

There is one incontrovertible fact which must be borne in mind, and this is, that no demand for increase of wages or for the general amelioration of the lot of the working-man can be granted without first affording industry the means to do so. It is true to say that in these times no one with a family to support can live on a daily wage of two pesos. At the same time, it is unjust that an industry should be compelled to expend its capital investment in order to provide the right scale of wages to its workers, irrespective of the probable profits with which such wage demands must be met in the long run.

Industry is the business of both the employer and the laborer. Any over-emphasis on the interests of one at the expense of the other is not conducive to the promotion of industry. There must be a middle ground where both can see eye to eye and where they can come to an understanding as to how best the interests of both and the future of the industry may be promoted.

In this period of industrial readjustment in our country, when we are encouraging foreign and domestic capital to invest towards the promotion of our huge economic development program, it is opportune that we review not only the problems of labor in its efforts to improve its conditions, but also the possibilities of our industrial development. Thus, we can arrive at a reasonable adjustment between the objectives of labor and the needs of industry. On this question no amount of theorizing over the lot of the workingman or over the interests of the capitalist will help us evolve an ideal relationship between these two factors in our country. Much less can we rely for guidance exclusively on the experiences of other countries where conditions are different from those prevailing in our own.

The principal fact which we should consider in our program of economic and industrial development is that we are still building the national economy, that we cannot expect the full measure of benefits from the new industries at the very beginning. Such benefits grow and develop commensurately with the growth and development of the industries concerned. And until these industries are operating at a steady and normal pace, we cannot hope to establish a permanent standard of wages and living conditions for our workers.

The Government is doing everything in its power to make our country attractive to capital investment. Already several industrial enterprises have been established and others are in prospect as a result of this policy of attraction. But labor must do its share in hastening this process of industrial development. Labor must be ready to forego certain demands at the beginning which may scare away capital or render the establishment of new enterprises too hazardous for the investor.

The problems which confront all new enterprises include the raising of sufficient capital, heavy overhead, availability of raw materials, uncertain market possibilities, the hazards of competition, etc. Despite these risks, the investor will be greatly encouraged to go ahead if he is given some assurance by the Government that it is willing to forego burdensome taxes for a period, and if labor for its part will be equally willing to forego for a time any excessive wage demands,

Management, labor, the community, and the Government must consider themselves as partners in the development of new industries. They all have a stake in the success of every industrial enterprise: management in the form of eventual profits, labor in the form of wages and other benefits, the community in the form of goods and services, and the Government in the form of taxes. They are in a sense, planting a tree together and each will have its rightful share in the season of harvest.

But before the harvest comes, there must be a spirit of mutual sacrifice as well as mutual encouragement in the relations between labor and management. More than a year ago, I created the Labor-Management Advisory Board in order that both elements may jointly study capital and labor problems, adjust their interests, and harness their

common efforts to our development program. This body has helped us on several occasions in reconciling the differences between labor and management and in settling many strikes or attempts to strike during the past few months. I hope it will find means of following up its record of usefulness to the country during the forthcoming National Labor-Management conference which is to be held under its auspices.

Ours is a developing country, and a strike is a luxury we can ill afford. What we need is a moratorium on crippling strikes especially in the new industries. Forbearance and self-denial during the initial stage of any enterprise is bound to bring rich dividends for labor in the long run.

The Government has initiated the establishment of new industries, and foreign as well as private capital is being induced and encouraged to do the same.

New industries mean new opportunities for employment. Workers already employed have a responsibility to help assure work for the jobless. This is their duty to their less fortunate brothers. But more than that, it will in the end be to their interest to help reduce the ranks of the unemployed.

The reason, for this is obvious. The more unemployed persons there are, the greater the competition among workers themselves, and the greater the tendency for wages to remain stationary or to fall through the operation of the law of demand and supply. Therefore, to reduce if not to eliminate unemployment altogether is, in effect to strengthen and stabilize the position of workers as a whole by minimizing the factor of competition in the labor market.

The administration's program of social amelioration will be pursued with vigor. We are attacking our social problems from all directions and with all the forces at our command, but, while the Government is duty bound to undertake such a program, our working citizens have an equal duty to help this program along—positively by rendering optimum service, and negatively by acts of self-restraint in the manner I have already indicated.

What I am proposing is that these measures of self-denial be taken by the free consent of the workers themselves. In return for such self-imposed discipline I give you the assurance on behalf of the administration that your interests and your welfare shall be fully protected in accordance with our constitutional obligations to the workers of our country.

In a free, democratic society, it takes little courage to fight for one's rights. What requires real courage to accept the stern discipline of duty and responsibility. The rank-and-file must reject agitation for its own sake and insist upon a restrained and responsible leadership of labor.

Capital, on the other hand, must be guided in its relations with labor by motives more lofty than the selfish pursuit of profit. It must develop a social conscience. In the social order that I have in mind and which is envisaged in our fundamental law, there should be no exploitation of workers. Management must regard labor as its full-fledged associate and partner and not merely as a tool of production.

The demand of the hour is labor-management statesmanship of a high order based on methods of enlightened self-interest and a just social conscience. This is the happy prospect which I hold out to you on the occasion of Labor Day.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Address of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, on Labor Day, May 1, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(5), 2008-2012.

Message of President Quirino on U. S. Armed Forces Day

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On U. S. Armed Forces Day**

[Delivered on May 19, 1950]

I am happy to join in warmest felicitations to the American soldier on U. S. Armed Forces Day. His valor and gallantry in defending his country and what it stands for in freedom, justice, and peace at home and abroad have always been in the best tradition. It is obvious that he cannot sit on his laurels. He will continue to be called upon to defend it and its ideals against a dire threat which can extinguish all freedom and human dignity in all the world. His cause is ours, as it is of all mankind, and our greatest tribute lies in our own continued vigilance against the menace that can destroy our free institutions and way of life.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1950). President Quirino's message on U. S. Armed Forces Day, May 19, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(5), 2015.

Twentieth Radio Chat of President Quirino

Twentieth Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Delivered on June 15, 1950]

Fellow Countrymen:

Here again, I am making my periodic report to acquaint you with the latest developments in our national scene.

We have had a busy month, busy at home and busy with our neighbors. On my initiative and invitation a Southeast Asia conference has been held in Baguio. It has demonstrated that the free peoples of our part of the world are agreeable to mutual consultation and common action to resolve their common problems. It has proved to be a veritable spiritual union of peoples bound by common sympathies.

Life for individuals as with nations is so constituted as to require multifold and not merely piecemeal, isolated action. We have a life to live at home and relations to maintain abroad, and must make a judicious use of our constructive energies to effect a wise coordination and integration of action in those two fields. The fact that world powers watched closely the proceedings of the Baguio Conference indicates that a fateful step in the life of SEA nations was taken and that the world as a whole must henceforth reckon with it.

But we had also a month of unhappy publicity abroad regarding our domestic situation. The stories of graft and corruption made credible by repetition, as well as of the now arrested activities of our lawless elements, have been utilized by our detractors as an excuse for the ignorant prediction that our Government will collapse in a few months. This gratuitous prediction is certainly the pay-off of the exaggerated, systematic fault-finding of our critics, some of them of good intention, many of them with axes to grind, others with dark ends to serve. Of course, you and I do not want to minimize the importance of the peace and order situation or the desirability of a more concentrated effort to arrest the evils that to some extent have undermined the good name of the Government in some of its branches.

But the Government is not going to fall. I have just returned from a trip to Central Luzon comprising the provinces of Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, and Pampanga. I want to tell you that what had been regarded heretofore as a troubled spot is now a busy area. The faces of the civilian population all throughout beamed with enthusiasm and joy as I went through their midst. I saw that where there once had been fear and want and dissatisfaction, there is now a feeling of contentment and security. I saw new homes where two or three years ago I had seen nothing but deserted, dilapidated houses, especially in the outlying barrios between Nueva Ecija and Tarlac formerly reputed to be the nest of dissident elements. New bridges, new roads and new public buildings greeted my eyes. The fields all throughout were verdant and the people busy in their respective callings, proudly exhibiting the fruits of their labor all along the road. I saw more work animals and palay mounds in the fields and less cockpits but more puericulture centers in the poblaciones.

When this region regarded as the worst spot in relation to the state of peace and order presents such a picture of activity and development, how can a reasonable citizen expect that his Government will fall? No!

There is a fantasy being encouraged among a few elements here to the delight of these latter-day imperialists—the Communists—and certain old colonial die-hards. By attempting beyond bounds to destroy public confidence in the constituted government, it is imagined they can conjure up a new regime and puppet and justify intervention by some alien power to sustain that puppet. They think they can thus bring back imperialism here—Western or Communist. Beware of them!

We shall disappoint these morbid dreamers. We shall not permit their neurotic imagination to destroy us and our free institutions. That they should persistently play into the hands of the real enemy of our country and freedom as unwitting instruments of his propaganda is unfortunate indeed. That they do not realize they can't continue playing at philosophic bystanders and cultivating cabbages in the event of the enemy's victory, strains our credulity.

An American writer who was our recent guest here, quoted some Filipinos alleged to have been interviewed by him as saying: "We hope the United States will put on pressure for real changes here. Only a demagogue can raise the issue of national sensitivity, and the issue will be a false one if American recommendations are obviously for the public welfare in this country. Such pressure will get immense support among us. The worst thing will be if the United States, in anti-Communist panic, simply decide to aid the regime as it now stands."

This is a sample intrigue, pure and simple, because I am sure we have no local critics who are not man and Filipino enough to identify themselves with such a position of abject colonial subservience, or who believe that U. S. assistance must be premised on a change in regime here first in favor of one, more amenable to dictation from without.

The unhappy aspect of all this is that in order for our deprecators to hit me and my administration, our country and our people and our government have to be slandered in the eyes of the whole world.

But I am happy to note that our Philippine press is one in protesting against the suggestion that a foreign government be permitted to set up shop here anew. It is not too late for our people and our press to realize the need of closing ranks and refusing to be the naive instruments of the determined professional subverters of order and freedom in this country. I am equally happy to note that official spokesmen of America repudiate the very idea of the suggestion as totally unworthy of America's record here. And I am sure the good people of America will sustain them in that position.

I invite our people to take a more positive outlook. We are doing things, we are building things. Better than merely suppressing evil is doing positive good, creating new things to spell our prosperity and happiness. A lot of the energy we use in histrionic denunciation for the benefit of the sensationalists can be better utilized in thinking our problems through to enable us to stand on a more substantial footing. Why not occupy ourselves with more production of the things that we need to raise our living standards? Instead of inciting the masses, why don't we open their eyes to their better future in cooperative effort, directing their attention or organizing them to take advantage of the great possibilities in the general development in Mindanao, in Palawan and in the plains and rich valleys of the Isabela-Cagayan region? The retail trade is now in our hands; why don't we organize our small merchants better for our benefit instead of allowing others to serve as mere dummies of alien competitors? Instead of engaging in the battle of wits to show who is more responsible for the deplorable lack of morality in some phases of the public service, why don't we, like men, real, fearless citizens, go to the Integrity Board and denounce those individuals who are robbing us of our reputation as a God-fearing honest people?

But not everything is dark in our country today. Our Central Bank in its recent quarterly report has good news for us. The rate of our dollar savings is on the increase. That means stability for our economy and widening margin for securing our truly essential needs from abroad. There is also an increasing rate in local investment for the manufacture of goods we used to import, accelerated no doubt by the control measures that temporarily have created some difficulties among our traders. This trend, I am confident, will continue, as we make the necessary adjustments and as we concentrate our minds more and more on building and production and less on the politics of the hour and the next elections.

Let us graduate into positive action and production. Where everybody is busy with productive work, he has less time to conspire against his fellows, the prosperity which he helps to create broadens the blessings of its benefits among his neighbors and strengthens the security of his own person and his private possessions. This situation finds just reflection in the stability of his country and its institutions, and he finds ample basis for the pride and enthusiasm with which he rushes to its defense in the hour of danger.

Let us close ranks, I repeat, and unite, not to aid wittingly or unwittingly the real enemies of our freedom and our Republic, but to pool our creative resources for developing our country and making it secure against want, against fear, and against slavery whatever its color. Let us prepare to take stock of our individual selves to determine how much we have that we can continue to contribute to the common store of good will, wholesome understanding and creative energy necessary to building our Republic for permanence and promoting a free and peaceful world.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Twentieth Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, June 15, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(6), 2485-2488.

Speech of President Quirino at the New Luneta, July 4, 1950

**Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the New Luneta, Manila**

[Delivered on July 4, 1950]

WE ARE MOVING FORWARD¹

THE impressive presentation of our increasing civil and military strength which has just passed before us and the lovely panoramic prospect in which we salute the fourth anniversary of our Republic justly find us all in deep commemorative mood.

This neat spacious green on which we stand, these young trees and the trim new skyline of our capital city rising from the rubble and debris of yesterday, the balmy breeze coming to us from our amplest bay and restored harbor, the generous blue heavens above in quiet witness to this dedicative hour—all combine to touch our hearts and enhance our devotions.

In an atmosphere so rich with associations of memorable historic moments in our life as a nation, we feel a powerful surge in our spirits, to voice anew our praise to the Almighty and render homage to the procession of known and unknown heroes who have made this day possible.

We are here not merely to celebrate a glorious occasion for our country and for our race. We meet to renew our faith in ourselves and reaffirm our loyalty to the democratic institutions which we have established.

When President Roxas unfurled the Philippine flag yonder in 1946, the whole world, as it joined with us in celebration, wondered: "Will it stay there?" I am proud, we should all be proud, of the eloquence with which the Filipino people in all walks of life have since responded with deeds and admirable achievements.

The veteran has rejoined his family and resumed his normal calling, instilling in his community a high sense of productivity and security. The teacher is in the classroom to gratify a universal hunger and compulsion of a school enrollment almost double pre-war. The farmer is now producing more than ever before. The industrialist has bestirred himself, developing new industries. The financier is broadening his horizon, investing in fields not heretofore explored and exploited. The merchant has expanded his activities to different countries of the world while maintaining his trade relations with the United States. The miner has returned to his operation, extending his activities even to new fields. The common worker, by proper union organization, is asserting his rights more effectively for the promotion of his well-being and the national economy.

What has the government done on its part? It has implemented the promotion of all other productive activities and construction work with the establishment of the Central Bank, the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation, and other credit agencies. It is harnessing hydraulic power in strategic places to mobilize industries, old and new. It has constructed irrigation systems and is establishing a fertilizer plant to encourage agriculture. It has expanded and mechanized rice production to make this country self-sufficient in this cereal.

By the immediate use of its credit facilities, the government has provided the necessary capital not only for the rehabilitation of our major industries such as hemp, sugar, tobacco, coconut, and lumber, but also for launching a housing program for the low-salaried employees and expediting the reconstruction of homes, farms, and factories.

All these activities come within our government's total economic mobilization program whose objectives reach far into the future. But already we have gone a good long way in resolving many of the problems that have taxed our people's resources since independence.

We have evolved a system to enable the legion of our government employees to benefit from their backpay and tide them over to eventual recovery. We have raised the compensation of employees in lower brackets, the enlisted men in the army, and the public school teachers. We have ministered to the needs of the masses with our social amelioration program. We have bought lands for the landless and accelerated the settlement of public agricultural lands all throughout the country. We have created new branch banks in strategic regions, have provided for small loans to needy farmers and for the redemption of guerrilla notes and emergency bills.

Indeed we started with deficits, but these were incurred to meet initial budgetary requirements and extraordinary constructive activities. Thus we have been able to improve the lot of the less fortunate and make capital investments for the construction of more schools, more roads and bridges, more hospitals and puericulture centers, more irrigation systems and other permanent improvements, and the one thousand and one things needed to enhance the people's moral and material life to a degree even greater than before the war. We have not only reconstructed a country; we are building a new one. We are now feeding a bigger nation and providing for its further growth and permanent existence.

On this day, therefore, as we enter upon the fifth year of our independent existence, we have a confident answer to the anxiety of our people and the possible doubt of the whole world regarding the continued existence of our independent government.

Of course, we have had our share of difficulties peculiar to any nation of our status, size, and resources. True, it is much easier to receive freedom than to achieve freedom, to obtain independence than to attain independence. But we can say that we have not made any retreat from the challenge of these difficulties. We can say that we have faced them manfully, that we have tackled them with courage and vigor, that we have made progress. What can be more heartening than the fact that we are gathered here today in testimony that we have successfully completed another year of freedom, ready to usher in the next, which although more difficult and precarious, is of greater promise?

For we have not allowed ourselves to be demoralized by the patent distortions of our difficulties and the dire predictions of imminent disaster to our Republic and to our efforts to secure its stability and happiness. We have been subjected to an increasing campaign of ill-wishers who are tirelessly drumming up a sense of tension and danger. Happily, they have not succeeded in breaking the will of our civil population to exchange for the complexities of democracy the discipline of the herd. We have not allowed the fears and confusion of partisan politics to undermine our spirit. We have shown that we know our direction and that we are moving forward.

We have become a respected member of the society of free nations. We have assumed international obligations in keeping with our new name and prestige. We have been discharging our commitments in order to advance justice and freedom especially for those who still have to become free.

Believing in peace and in mutual assistance, we have shown initiative in bringing nations in our part of the world to take common counsel in the study and resolution of our common problems. We have helped crystallize the feeling that in the determination of matters affecting South and Southeast Asia, the voice and the will of the people of the region must be considered and heeded.

Born of a background of generous apprenticeship in the ways of liberty and democracy, we have unequivocally aligned ourselves with America and other free nations devoted to liberty and peace and to the protection of the dignity of the human being.

Our Republic is only four years old, but it has taken more, much more, than that to make it what it is today. Behind it is half a century of experience in training for democracy. Behind it is four centuries of Christian culture. Behind it is the memory of a longer racial tradition rooted in sacrifice, courage, and self-respect. It is unthinkable that we

should wantonly set all these aside for any system or cause that denies all the moral and spiritual values that constitute our priceless inheritance.

We have just participated in a solemn ceremony of lighting the Eternal Flame on the tomb of the Filipino Unknown Soldier. We have performed a symbolic act of faith in the principles that led our heroic dead to give their lives that our Republic might be born and survive. To every succeeding generation they left the responsibility of service to the nation as a priceless legacy. We cannot be less true to the faith that gave glory to them in life and in death. Every new generation that falls heir to that faith has the responsibility to pass on the torch of devoted service to the next. Without doubt, we of the present generation have the character, the resourcefulness, and the determination to prove worthy of the faith.

We pray today not that we may be relieved of the responsibility of facing our problems but that we may always have the vision to see them clearly, the strength to bear them, the solidarity, courage, and confidence to overcome them.

Because, fundamentally, ours is not solely a problem of survival. We have a mission to accomplish: we have continuously to make democracy work in this part of the world, as it can, and does, and shall work. We must continually show that, as a way of life, it is the richest source of happiness, security, and peace.

We are regarded as the leading exponent of a new freedom not hitherto known in this neighborhood. We must and will unite to measure up to this responsibility. We have been heretofore concerned with strengthening the different arms of the government to stabilize our institutions. Each arm in its zealous effort to give strength to the government seemed to be in a keen race for self-assertion for power and influence. But to be constructive and fruitful we must realize that all this should be coordinated and find integration with the private efforts of our citizenry to strengthen our Republic.

If national unity and solidarity must be given concrete expression, the time is now, when there is a not-far-distant threat to our Republic and national existence. Now is the time for more sober and responsible thinking, for more determination to protect and advance the national welfare, to subordinate personal interest and partisan differences to common cause, in an act of noble and patriotic self-effacement.

I am most gratified, and we are strengthened beyond measure, that representative elements of the nation realize the grave peril that confronts us and are happily closing ranks. Certainly no patriotic citizen of this country has the right to turn his back as we face again a supreme test of our devotion and loyalty to our country. I know that every Filipino, true to his name, will do his duty. This is the burden, this is the special meaning of our Fourth of July this year.

Footnote:

¹At the New Luneta, Manila, July 4, 1950.

Source: The Quirino Way: Collection of Speeches and Addresses of Elpidio Quirino

Address of President Quirino on the Fourth Anniversary of the Republic of the Philippines

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the Fourth Anniversary of the Republic of the Philippines**

[Delivered at Luneta, Manila, July 4, 1950]

Countrymen, Friends:

The impressive presentation of our increasing civil and military strength which has just passed before us and the lovely panoramic prospect in which we salute the fourth anniversary of our Republic justly find us all in deep commemorative mood.

This neat spacious green on which we stand, these young trees and the trim new skyline of our capital city rising from the rubble and debris of yesterday, the balmy breeze coming to us from our amplest bay and restored harbor, the generous blue heavens above in quiet witness to this dedicative hour—all combine to touch our hearts and enhance our devotions.

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What has the Government done on its part? It has implemented the promotion of all other productive activities and construction work with the establishment of the Central Bank, the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation and other credit agencies. It is harnessing hydraulic power in strategic places to mobilize industries, old and new. It has constructed irrigation systems and is establishing a fertilizer plant to encourage agriculture. It has expanded and mechanized rice production to make this country self-sufficient in this cereal.

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All these activities come within our government's total economic mobilization program whose objectives reach far into the future. But already we have gone a good long way in resolving many of the problems that have taxed our people's resources since independence.

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For we have not allowed ourselves to be demoralized by the patent distortions of our difficulties and the dire predictions of imminent disaster to our Republic and to our efforts to secure its stability and happiness. We have been subjected to an increasing campaign of ill-wishers who are tirelessly drumming up a sense of tension and danger. Happily, they have not succeeded in breaking the will of our civil population to exchange for the complexities of democracy the discipline of the herd. We have not allowed the fears and confusion of partisan politics to undermine our spirit. We have shown that we know our direction and that we are moving forward.

We have become a respected member of the society of free nations. We have assumed international obligations in keeping with our new name and prestige. We have been discharging our commitments in order to advance justice and freedom especially for those who still have to become free.

Believing in peace and in mutual assistance, we have shown initiative in bringing nations in our part of the world to take common counsel in the study and resolution of our common problems. We have helped crystallize the feeling that in the determination of matters affecting South and Southeast Asia, the voice and the will of the people of the region must be considered and heeded.

Born of a background of generous apprenticeship in the ways of liberty and democracy, we have unequivocally aligned ourselves with America and other free nations devoted to liberty and peace and to the protection of the dignity of human being.

Our Republic is only four years old, but it has taken more, much more, than that to make it what it is today. Behind it is half a century of experience and training for democracy. Behind it is four centuries of Christian culture. Behind it is the memory of a longer racial tradition rooted in sacrifice, courage and self-respect. It is unthinkable that we

should wantonly set all these aside for any system or cause that denies all the moral and spiritual values that constitute our priceless inheritance.

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We pray today not that we may be relieved of the responsibility of facing our problems but that we may always have the vision to see them clearly, the strength to bear them, the solidarity, courage and confidence to overcome them.

Because, fundamentally, ours is not solely a problem of survival. We have a mission to accomplish: we have continuously to make democracy work in this part of the world, as it can, and does, and shall work. We must continually show that, as a way of life, it is the richest source of happiness, security and peace.

We are regarded as the leading exponent of a new freedom not hitherto known in this neighborhood. We must and will unite to measure up to this responsibility. We have been heretofore concerned with strengthening the different arms of the Government to stabilize our institutions. Each arm in its zealous effort to give strength to the Government seemed to be in a keen race for self-assertion for power and influence. But to be constructive and fruitful we must realize that all this should be coordinated and find integration with the private efforts of our citizenry to strengthen our Republic.

If national unity and solidarity be given concrete expression, the time is now, when there is a not-far-distant threat to our Republic and national existence. Now is the time for more sober and responsible thinking, for more determination to protect and advance the national welfare, to subordinate personal interest and partisan differences to the common cause, in an act of noble and patriotic self-effacement.

I am most gratified, and we are strengthened beyond measure, that representative elements of the nation realize the grave peril that confronts us and are happily closing ranks. Certainly no patriotic citizen of this country has the right to turn his back as we face again a supreme test of our devotion and loyalty to our country. I know that every Filipino, true to his name, will do his duty. This is the burden, this is the special meaning of our Fourth of July this year.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Address of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino on the Fourth Anniversary of the Republic of the Philippines delivered at the Luneta, Manila, July 4, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(7), 3017-3021.

Speech of President Quirino at the Loyalty Rally of the Philippine Government Employees Association, July 28, 1950

Extemporaneous speech of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, at the Loyalty Rally of the Philippine Government Employees Association, Rizal Memorial Stadium, July 28, 1950:

*Fellow Members of the Official Family,
Ladies and Gentlemen, and Friends:*

I wish to express my deep gratification over the elevating spirit that has brought us together on this spot this afternoon.

On rare occasions, if ever in the past, has this big bulk of public servants of the Government been together to re-dedicate themselves to the principles of Democracy and Freedom and to loyal, faithful compliance with their duties under the Constitution and to pledge their utmost that is the discharge of their respective duties in the Government they will so conduct themselves promptly and courteously, serving our people without fear or favor, unto their best ability as decent citizens of this country.

In the past we have seen groups of civil service employees parading in the streets or in front of big offices, especially the Executive building or the Legislative building to demand benefits for their class, or to secure justice or relief from injustice.

What a contrast today. You are gathered here this afternoon not to demand any right nor to express any grievance but to reaffirm your faith in the Government and to express your loyalty to a government of which you are a part.

There is no better occasion than this for all of us to realize our great responsibility at this supreme moment. In the past, we were led by our political leaders to whom we gave almost our blind support because they were fighting for something for which we had struggled for centuries to obtain—our freedom and independence. It was easy then to employ the means of persuasion alone in order to unite the whole population and present a solid front in the struggle for freedom.

But the situation today is different. Once that freedom and independence has been achieved, our next work now is to maintain that freedom and independence so that we can continue enjoying its blessings for ourselves and for our posterity.

The first required leadership is thought and action, or inspiration and persuasion. The second requires leadership that will make us work and fight to maintain that freedom and independence. The first was simply inspiring; the second is thankless and tiring. We need now a great amount of cool calculation, of vision, of sacrifice, of hard work. The leadership of the past has been succeeded by the statesmanship of the present.

I shall never look again to the next elections as far as I am concerned we shall look farther than the next election, or the one after the next. Our mission is to build and build and build. And when a man is asked to work, dig and build, you cannot make him work simply by inspiration or persuasion. There is something practical something more important than being inspired that would move man into action. And that is the reason why it is difficult during this moment to employ spectacular appeals to the masses, to compel them to action in order that we may be able to maintain the freedom and independence for which our forefathers fought for centuries in the past.

I have always thought and it is my conviction that this bulk of the civil servants before me today constitute the peak of the pyramid of power and influence in the country. It is this bulk of the population that gives life and soul to the Government, and for that matter, the Constitution.

You are the ones that go out, after making your calculations in your offices, applying your trigonometry and logarithms to measure the field, to locate the wealth, to map out our potentialities and come home and prepare the

blueprint for our economic development. You are the ones who go out to collect taxes, to teach our children and even our adults. You go from province to province, from municipality to municipality. You are the brain and brawn of this Government. Without you as the cog and wheel of the Government, the machinery cannot function properly. And it is for this reason that, having come from your class, perhaps in a more modest beginning than you have started in the Government, I realize how as I look from a higher plane that this class must be given its proper place and importance.

This gives me occasion to recall that all such measures that have recently been approved to improve the lot or to ameliorate the position and future of this class of employees have been approved, and have been accomplished during my time with you in this Government.

I shall not lay exclusive claim for the credit for having approved the backpay law, or for the increase of the minimum salary of employees of the Government from ₱40 to around ₱100, and the salaries of enlisted men from ₱25 or ₱30 to ₱50, and the improvement of the salaries of the school teachers and the increase of wages of the laborers in many instrumentalities of this Government which has encouraged even the private institutions to follow the example and thereby generalize these benefit in our country.

That we have not approved in the last session of Congress the social security bill providing for insurance of the employees of the Government was purely due to the lack of available funds to make the system work. Don't tell me that I have no interest in you. Don't tell me that this Government is not doing anything for the so-called downtrodden, humble, neglected, and discriminated against group—that group in the lower bracket of our Government. Who is responsible for the carrying out of a social program, extending relief not only to government employees but displaced persons of the communities harassed and embarrassed by the dissidents, those who in the far-flung communities are suffering because they have been separated from their relatives who cannot give them support and assistance in times of strain and stress, giving them food, shelter, medicine, schools and bridges?

This only happened, I am proud to state and assert, during my administration. I repeat, I shall not make political capital of this because I am no longer asking anything for myself. All I want is that the lot of the people whom I have served in this Government may be so improved that they too can enjoy the benefits that they have been trying in the past to obtain.

Four or five years ago, on this very spot where we are now gathered, we saw the bloody encounters of our liberators and our invaders. All around us was then ruin and devastation. And yet, as we recall that soul-inspiring epoch in our national history when we had to fight for our independence and freedom, we are again to contemplate at a distance, not a very distant place, the spectre of death and destruction caused by the war that broke out in Korea a month ago. We are still healing our war wounds and are still rehabilitating our country so cruelly devastated, and yet we have to prepare again for another, perhaps a more bloody debacle, which I wish we could prevent from extending its influence and converting this country again into another world battleground.

But, my friends, the verdict of history is not in our hands. The trouble that is now driving the countries of the world into a more serious conflict than in the past, is not our own responsibility. But whether we like it or not, as I said on another occasion, and I want to repeat it today, our people and our Government have a stake, a definite stake in the Korean war. Democracy has a stake in it. World freedom has a stake in it. And you and I, individually and collectively, whether we like it or not, in one way or another, will be affected or involved. Shall we fold our arms in contemplation of that impending spectacle of death and destruction again? That is the question of the hour.

Our Government has made a commitment not only to the United States but to the United Nations under the treaty and agreement that we have signed in the past and because of our membership in the United Nations Assembly. Under this treaty, the United States of America has pledged to assist us in training and developing our armed forces and in all such other services as may be necessary for us to carry out our obligations, international obligations, including our commitments to the United Nations. If we gave to the United States government the privilege to utilize a portion of our land to establish and maintain military and naval reservations, it was with the idea that we may mutually defend not only our shores but the interests of America and the Philippines in this part of the world, as well as the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

The time has come for us to fulfill our obligations and poor as we are, we have to join efforts to do so in all diligent pride and with determination. You have heard of the reactivation of the civilian emergency administration that functioned during the last war. We have integrated our armed forces constituting combat teams not only to insure our internal security but to prepare our ground forces for national defense.

I want to make it dear that this Government is not making any empty gesture nor is there any vacillation on our part to actively participate in the campaign for the preservation of peace in the world and for the protection of the liberty and freedom that we now enjoy. But this question must be considered from a realistic and frank standpoint, considering our own capacity and the sufficiency of our finances. Many provinces are daily requesting the Government to send Constabulary men or combat teams to help eradicate violence or dissident activities in their respective jurisdictions. Because of the deficiency of men in the armed forces and the lack of appropriations to equip and maintain such forces, we have not been able fully to comply with the demands from the provinces. We have allowed, however, all able-bodied men in this country to enlist in the armed forces of the United States—and I know that there are many not only eager but impatient to enlist so that they may be able to take advantage of the opportunity to show to the whole world again that we are ready to fight for the freedom of the world and for the peace of mankind.

After all under the provisions of these treaties I just mentioned, Filipinos are qualified to enlist as members of the United States Army in the same manner as American citizens are also qualified to enlist in the Philippine Army. You are, therefore, ready when necessary and called upon and we have already made assurances to this effect to participate in any world conflict which may mean the preservation of our freedom and the maintenance of freedom and peace in the world.

In the meantime, however, you realize the great importance of watching and defending zealously our own home front which is as much a front as the front across the seas. I, therefore, on my part, will request the Congress to appropriate the biggest appropriation available to increase the armed forces of this country and equip them properly and adequately in order that they will be prepared not only to maintain internal security but to fight across or beyond our borders for world freedom and peace.

But, my friends, we are not going to wage any fight with weapons alone. There is something more fundamental, there is something more immediately imperative at the moment before we can equip ourselves properly for any war, and that is the morale of our people. It had been the usual practice in the past, as it is in all nations, for the leaders of the Government to inspire the masses, to lift their morale. But this congregation this afternoon, I want you to know, rather than receiving inspiration from the leaders, has given us encouragement to maintain the high morale in the highest councils of the Government. I want to assure you that now you have lifted the morale of this Government. *[Applause.]*

And it is necessary that, instead of you leaning on us, we have to lean on you at this supreme moment. I repeat, my friends, that we have been able to achieve our independence and freedom. But for us to continue enjoying the blessings of this freedom and independence, is something that belongs not only to us but principally to the younger generation. And if we don't defend our rights today, if we don't help the United Nations in the defense of democracy and freedom of the world, woe unto us! We have to fight to the last, now or never, because if we do not fight now, we have nothing to fight for tomorrow.

My friends, this is an inspiring moment for those of us who have long been working hard to put into the minds of our people that graft, corruption, irregularity and anomaly are not the general practice of the government. Loyalty to the government is not loyalty to the individual members of this government. It is loyalty to the Republic. I shall not ask you to be loyal to me personally. I shall not ask you to be loyal to the cabinet simply because you are a member of this government, no matter how humble the role you are going to play in it. But I shall demand on your loyalty to the Republic, loyalty to your people. *[Applause.]*

We shall not tolerate sabotage in this Government. Let us act together, and not simply sit in judgment upon one another. Let us join to contribute to a common and united effort to facilitate our preparedness and not exploit divisive factors of prejudice and self-righteousness as a condition to action.

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For this noble end, we rise above our individual prejudices, our personal injuries and frustrations, our partisan differences and difficulties; we will man the ramparts at home to protect and preserve our valid and lasting traditions; we will even go beyond our shores, if needed, to contribute our bit to the resolute defense of those traditions which render us kin to other peoples.

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Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino at the Loyalty Rally of the Philippine Government Employees Association, July 28, 1950

**Extemporaneous Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Loyalty Rally of the Philippine Government Employees Association**

[Delivered at the Rizal Memorial Stadium, July 28, 1950]

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The time has come for us to fulfill our obligations and poor as we are, we have to join efforts to do so in all diligent pride and with determination. You have heard of the reactivation of the civilian emergency administration that functioned during the last war. We have integrated our armed forces constituting combat teams not only to insure our internal security but to prepare our ground forces for national defense.

I want to make it dear that this Government is not making any empty gesture nor is there any vacillation on our part to actively participate in the campaign for the preservation of peace in the world and for the protection of the liberty and freedom that we now enjoy. But this question must be considered from a realistic and frank standpoint, considering our own capacity and the sufficiency of our finances. Many provinces are daily requesting the Government to send Constabulary men or combat teams to help eradicate violence or dissident activities in their respective jurisdictions. Because of the deficiency of men in the armed forces and the lack of appropriations to equip and maintain such forces, we have not been able fully to comply with the demands from the provinces. We have allowed, however, all able-bodied men in this country to enlist in the armed forces of the United States—and I know that there are many not only eager but impatient to enlist so that they may be able to take advantage of the opportunity to show to the whole world again that we are ready to fight for the freedom of the world and for the peace of mankind.

After all under the provisions of these treaties I just mentioned, Filipinos are qualified to enlist as members of the United States Army in the same manner as American citizens are also qualified to enlist in the Philippine Army. You are, therefore, ready when necessary and called upon and we have already made assurances to this effect to participate in any world conflict which may mean the preservation of our freedom and the maintenance of freedom and peace in the world.

In the meantime, however, you realize the great importance of watching and defending zealously our own home front which is as much a front as the front across the seas. I, therefore, on my part, will request the Congress to appropriate the biggest appropriation available to increase the armed forces of this country and equip them properly and adequately in order that they will be prepared not only to maintain internal security but to fight across or beyond our borders for world freedom and peace.

But, my friends, we are not going to wage any fight with weapons alone. There is something more fundamental, there is something more immediately imperative at the moment before we can equip ourselves properly for any war, and that is the morale of our people. It had been the usual practice in the past, as it is in all nations, for the leaders of the Government to inspire the masses, to lift their morale. But this congregation this afternoon, I want you to know, rather than receiving inspiration from the leaders, has given us encouragement to maintain the high morale in the highest councils of the Government. I want to assure you that now you have lifted the morale of this Government. *[Applause.]*

And it is necessary that, instead of you leaning on us, we have to lean on you at this supreme moment. I repeat, my friends, that we have been able to achieve our independence and freedom. But for us to continue enjoying the blessings of this freedom and independence, is something that belongs not only to us but principally to the younger generation. And if we don't defend our rights today, if we don't help the United Nations in the defense of democracy and freedom of the world, woe unto us! We have to fight to the last, now or never, because if we do not fight now, we have nothing to fight for tomorrow.

My friends, this is an inspiring moment for those of us who have long been working hard to put into the minds of our people that graft, corruption, irregularity and anomaly are not the general practice of the government. Loyalty to the government is not loyalty to the individual members of this government. It is loyalty to the Republic. I shall not ask you to be loyal to me personally. I shall not ask you to be loyal to the cabinet simply because you are a member of this government, no matter how humble the role you are going to play in it. But I shall demand on your loyalty to the Republic, loyalty to your people. *[Applause.]*

We shall not tolerate sabotage in this Government. Let us act together, and not simply sit in judgment upon one another. Let us join to contribute to a common and united effort to facilitate our preparedness and not exploit divisive factors of prejudice and self-righteousness as a condition to action.

The measure of our loyalty to our heroic heritage and its blessings which we enjoy today is our readiness to take up and uphold the nation's common cause of survival as well as victory for the forces for freedom and human decency everywhere.

For this noble end, we rise above our individual prejudices, our personal injuries and frustrations, our partisan differences and difficulties; we will man the ramparts at home to protect and preserve our valid and lasting traditions; we will even go beyond our shores, if needed, to contribute our bit to the resolute defense of those traditions which render us kin to other peoples.

May God bless us all for all times.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Message of President Quirino, August 15, 1950

Twenty-second monthly radio chat of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, beamed to the Filipino people from Malacañan Palace on August 15, 1950:

My dear Fellow Countrymen:

I invite you to listen to me carefully. But don't be alarmed because I am not going to talk big. As a matter of fact, talking big is now becoming an ailment of our country. Observe the daily remarks or observations printed in the papers or heard in street corners, restaurants, cafes and even in night clubs, as well as in important offices of the government and outside of the government. The people are becoming jittery over the effects upon the whole life of the nation of remarks and reports so disproportionate to the reality of the situation which they encompass. Listen to them say, for instance, that if graft and corruption are not curbed, this government will be penniless by September 15th or will collapse not later than December 31st of this year; or that if a certain official of the government is not removed there will be no appropriation to protect the civilian population in an emergency; or that if another official's resignation is not accepted immediately, there will be no cooperation between two important departments of the government; or that if the President is not removed by impeachment, United States assistance would not be given to us. All this reminds me of the story of how the "lechon" originated in China. A house was accidentally set on fire and the owner discovered that the pig underneath was roasted. He convinced his friends that this was good to eat and concluded that the best way to prepare a "lechon" was to set fire to a house with a pig underneath. Inversely, some of our people believe that if there is a "lechon," a house must have been set on fire. Thus if one public official has become rich while in office, the whole government must have gone wrong or that if the President is removed "there will be a new set of officials who, it is easy to see" will solve our problems. It is a fantastic development, but this is the situation which some people are creating in the face of our present difficulties.

Before our mental health is seriously affected, it is necessary that we have a vacation from this strange mental attitude and take things more calmly as normal human beings would. We are taxing our intelligence too much running into far-fetched conclusions regarding routine problems of the workaday world.

One famous scientist who visited our country as a specialist in mental health science, made the observation that our mental health in the Philippines is rated higher than that of the general European population and many other progressive countries of the world, for several reasons. Some of them are: our individual life is simple; our family life is stable; we are not as yet highly industrialized and our atmosphere is not surcharged with keen competition in the struggle for existence; our people, unlike other peoples, have not as yet been exposed to intermittent and frequent wars and do not easily get panicky at any threat of war. Certainly there is need of preserving our mental health during these days when everybody talks of a financial debacle, of the Korean war, of the Third World War, and of all the one thousand and one evils which many of us take pride in magnifying even after elections.

It appears that those who place so much store by our rights to free expression are the first to be frightened by the consequences of their license to ventilate our shortcomings. We cannot hear of, or mouth, the existence of ills in our government and society without generating panic among ourselves and our neighbors. We forget that ills are discovered and diagnosed and discussed to find the means to eliminate them and not for ourselves to be scared into paralysis, despair and death.

We should realize that there is nothing particularly cheap or easy about being independent. We did not come by our freedom cheaply, we all know that. Well, we must know that it will cost us more to stay free in brain and brawn energy, in blood and in treasure. Whoever believes that the establishment of freedom resolves all problems and responsibilities, deceives himself. As well said by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, there is now no security in this world, there is only opportunity.

But I am sure we can solve our problems, big as they are and complicated as they appear, with more calm and composure. It can be a virtue to occupy ourselves about the difficulties of our neighbors. It is a civic duty to help solve the big national problems. It is a noble gesture to stand ready to fight for other peoples' right to be free and independent. It is an inescapable obligation on our part to act collectively in the preservation of our own individual

and national rights. We cannot be so selfish as to our own interests and happiness alone, denying others who knock at our door the help that we can well extend to insure their rights and happiness. But it is a good thing not to lose our sense of proportion in estimating our ability to comply with our social, civic, and patriotic obligation.

We must begin at home and discover for ourselves the realities of a home life. While we express or show sympathy for others' sufferings, we do not have to parade as the sole champions of the downtrodden's cause and cry loud to the sky in denunciation of the incapacity of the government to satisfy the poor people's demands, socially malingering as if we too were oppressed, depressed, miserable or starving when we are not. For more often than not many of those who so champion their cause are well-fed, well-housed and wealthy, or have become wealthy.

We have men of ample means in our midst who are quick to seize every chance to identify themselves as champions of the underprivileged. This they do by criticizing at every opportunity what the government is doing or is not doing. I like to see these men graduate from the purely pious fingering of their political scapularies as a means of protecting their property from violence and come down to practical projects to help elevate the object of their sympathy. Then we can sample the sincerity of their social awareness and get the inspiration we have long needed. While echoing and re-echoing what other peoples are suffering, we can take positive action in helping others to secure their normal needs, or if possible, share with them what we have to help satisfy their needs. This will have a more effective way of encouraging our fellows to stand on their own feet rather than to pull down others who are also laboring to help. Unless we are convinced that we have the monopoly of sympathy, of Christian feeling, of clearness of vision and a determination to help others, this sitting in judgment of others' conduct is a practice which has retarded our movement forward more than anything else.

If we needed national and individual discipline of a high order with which to close and strengthen our ranks in our past struggles to be prosperous and free, we need greater discipline now with which to marshal our forces in order to stay free. This discipline is not the kind imposed by a dictatorship. It must come from every individual's sense of responsibility and duty whatever his assignment in relation to his neighbors and his community.

This discipline, for those who feel called upon to lead, requires a greater sense of humility, too. This reminds me of a passage in the Holy Scripture which mentions that "Two men went up to the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and began to pray thus within himself: 'O God, I thank Thee that I am not like the rest of men, robbers, dishonest, adulterers, or even like this publican. I fast twice a week; I pray tithes of all that I possess.' But the publican, standing far off, would not so much as lift up his eyes to heaven, but kept striking his breast, saying 'O God, be merciful to me the sinner!' I tell you, this man went back to his home justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted."

It is gratuitous to point out that we have come upon perilous times. For us in the Philippines who are bending every effort to attain recovery after the most destructive war we have known, the burden of staying free and building an economy favorable to the health of democracy is not anything we can just shift to somebody else's shoulder. It is not anything that can be disposed of by merely striking an attitude and making a gesture. We must consult our powers and use them for the most constructive purpose. The times demand that we prepare even as we repair, that we graduate from negative into positive action. For a good while we have been taking a kind of neurotic pleasure in flagellating ourselves, confessing to all and sundry what is wrong with us. It is time we realized what is right with us and proceed to act upon it.

In the magnitude of the difficulties that we face, there should be little enough leisure permitted to undermine our discipline with personal hates, sectional grudges or partisan suspicion. We can work to better purpose concentrating on the positive things that we must bring into being to give tranquillity to our hearts security to our homes, stamina to our resistance to new mistiques disguising the approach of a new despotism and to the naked violence that is ultimately invoked to insure its primacy in our midst.

I am heartened by the efforts of many of our younger elements in the field of civic and economic action who are trying to bring greater goodwill and understanding in our midst. I am heartened by their definite efforts to work out proposals to raise our economic productivity and bring a rational balance between the demands of rising living

standard and our people's capacity to provide for them. I am heartened by the increasing thought they are giving to the economic realities of our situation and the positive approaches needed to give substance to our aspirations to peace, freedom and plenty.

The effectiveness of our troops who will fight for peace and freedom abroad rests on what we are and what we do at home, on the discipline we impose on ourselves to reduce dissension and increase understanding and cooperation, to graduate from largely negative to mainly positive thought and action, to vindicate our willingness to assume the obligations of freedom and self-respect, accepting our limitations but exerting ourselves to the limit to pay the cost.

We are in our Promised Land, but we certainly are quite a ways off the picnic grounds. We are in no period to relax and we cannot afford the luxury of despair. There is only, for us, the job of taking hold of ourselves, believing in God, and facing up to our difficulties which are our only opportunity to deserve our heritage and pass it on improved to our children.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino before the Manila Lions

Extemporaneous Speech of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines Before the Manila Lions

[Delivered on August 19, 1950]

THE COUNTRY NEEDS COOPERATION¹

FOR ALMOST two hours and a half I sat patiently by the side of the previous speakers listening to every word and scanning every gesture during the delivery of their beautiful speeches, expecting to get or receive some illumination regarding the ways and means by which this government, so unpleasant, so apparently weak and powerless, may reconstruct and strengthen itself. At the same time, I expected to be able to find a way to achieve these purposes from the intelligent discussion with which we would be treated here this evening.

When I entered this hall, I left behind me the title of President of the Philippines. There were misgivings about my coming here this evening. My close friends — and there are still many of them who love me — cautioned me not to come, saying I would receive the greatest disappointment in my life by hearing speeches that would perhaps hurt me and affect my efficiency in the administration of the national affairs; others, believing that this gathering was being constituted by a great majority of the ill-wishers of the government, thought that this was not the audience that I should address because I must protect not only the name and prestige of the party but also the little dignity that I have as head of this nation. I turned a deaf ear to all of them.

We have not yet been able to utilize that Roxas Park of Liberty where everybody can talk and outtalk anybody else and attack the government, individuals, and even their God freely and with impunity, a place which we might call our Filipino Hyde Park. Unfortunately, it is not yet available.

I came to this place relishing the opportunity to hear the most eloquent brickbat that I have ever heard in my life. And I think I have been in public life longer than Dr. Laurel.² Forty-four years ago, in 1906, I entered the public service as a barrio school teacher. I have gone through the whole gamut in the government administration, going from one branch of the government to another, from a barrio school teacher to clerk, to representative, to senator, to cabinet member, to vice-president, until I came to the position that I am now occupying.

I have heard unkind remarks everywhere. In my political speeches and campaigns, I have received the hardest attacks from the very beginning but there was nothing so unsavory, so ungentlemanly as those I have just heard from the lips of Senator Tañada. I thought that our country was becoming politically civilized enough and that we were educating ourselves in a democracy so that we could know the proper time when to say “sonna-ma-gun” and when to insult a man, attacking his own integrity, connecting him with a lousy deal such as the Tambobong and Buenavista estates. I want to challenge you, Senator, to tell me that that was a family affair. I want to imitate what President Quezon said to Laurel, “If you find that there is anything wrong in connection with my actuations there, my life is your own. It is yours and the people’s.” (*Applause*)

Poor as I am and having come from the very bottom, I have so conducted myself in public as well as in private life that I can always look straight into any man’s eye and tell him to go to hell. (*Applause*)

That is just an introduction. You and I, my friends of the Lions Club, have paid fifteen, twenty or fifty pesos to come to this hall and hear these three speeches. I regret that you had to pay that much to hear something unedifying and unpleasant. I really had hoped that I would be revealed to myself, that my political picture would be drawn here in all honesty and sincerity and that I might take advantage of any description of myself as a public official or as a private citizen. But all I learned is the personality of the cartoonist. I want to congratulate Dr. Laurel (*applause*) for

the high-minded statesmanship, constructive suggestions, and highly patriotic fervor in expressing his views in response to the requirements of the moment.

My friends, the three of us who are here with you, have been on various occasions in the same party. When we organized the *Colectivista* party, Dr. Laurel and I were there. When we organized the Liberal party, Senator Tañada and I were there. Now we belong to three different parties. This reminds me of what transpired when two English authors, Chesterton and Belloc, were discussing the cause of drunkenness. One said, "I am drinking everywhere all sorts of wine. I don't know which causes drunkenness more, whisky or brandy or gin. If I drink whisky mixed with water, I get drunk. If I drink gin and mix it with water, I get drunk. And if I drink brandy with water, I still get drunk. So my conclusion is that no matter what you mix water with you get drunk. So, I conclude that water is the most pernicious and intoxicating beverage ever." Well, perhaps I am the water. I didn't come here drunk with power. I didn't come here drunk with dignity. I didn't come here drunk with dreams of greatness or illusions of grandeur. The greatest evidence that I believe in democracy is that I can stand here contrary to protocol and listen to what my friends think or fancy I am without feeling offended unless they attack my personal character. I invite you, my friends, to follow me to those old days since 1906, through all these offices that I have held and you can ask all my associates, my relatives, my friends, and even my enemies in my home province, about me—in fact, all those who know me intimately in public as well as in private life. I think that God will bear me out that there is not a scintilla of evidence that will show lack of character, lack of integrity, or lack of earnestness to serve my country.

I wish to remind you of the great issue of the day when we were still fighting for our independence. When we began our campaign for the freedom of this country, our people were divided into two schools — one thought was that we should not have independence because we were not yet economically prepared; the other was for immediate, complete, and absolute independence, to which President Quezon, Osmeña, Palma, and all the rest of us who were disciples of President Quezon, belonged. At that time there was no issue but independence. It was only a question of timing. While one party thought it was too early, the other party said, "No, it is timely."

America thought for decades of the advisability of granting the Philippines her independence. America was sincere in preparing us for the boon of freedom. America prepared us for forty-eight years to achieve it. America spent her own money in that preparation. She sent school teachers here, and some of the worthy sons of the United States made crimson the shores of Jolo, of Lanao, and of other places when the recalcitrant Moros were fighting the government established by the Americans, believing that they were going to be sacrificed to the independence that was going to be granted to us. It took America decades to consider whether or not we should be given our independence. The only issue was whether the Philippines was already prepared to be independent. Even we, who were called *Inmediatistas* were doubting whether this country could rise on its own feet once independence was granted. But we dared. We braved the future, believing that if independence was placed in our hands we would be able to work out a system of government which would enable us to enjoy the liberty and freedom that we now have. It was only after the last war when everything had been demolished, when our country was devastated, when every home, every industry, every constructive activity of this country was bulldozed, so to speak, as a price of our loyalty to the United States that we all were convinced it was worth the sacrifice to accept independence. We had hoped that America would stand by us, support us, encourage us, and give us strength to be able to show that democracy can thrive on our soil. So independence was declared on July 4, 1946. We built a very small house, a very poor one, a *barong-barong* we might call it. We had no money. We had barely one million pesos in our coffers. The eighteen million pesos that we had in deposit in the United States was brought home as part or a remnant of our Commonwealth funds deposited there when our Commonwealth Government was functioning in Washington as an exile government. Our people were still bleeding. Their wounds had not yet been healed. Our farms were not rehabilitated. Our people were still in tatters. People were going in rags in the streets extending their hands to the American soldiers or anybody who could throw them a cigarette, a can of food, or even the crumbs of the soldiers in the street corners, in fact anywhere.

We forgot indignity. We accepted every wee bit. We accepted every assistance. We accepted all graciously in the greatest confidence that the U. S., our Big Brother, wanted us to be free and would want us to continue enjoying freedom. From such assistance, we felt America would derive pride in the future because of her successful, benign colonial policy in the Orient. What happened since then, my friends? We have never been ourselves since 1945. We were broke — we still are broke. We had to borrow from the United States sixty million dollars to meet our budgetary requirements. We had to spend everything that we had as trust funds, yes, but it belonged to us, and a trust

fund is not earmarked. It is put in the treasury. Whenever the congress authorizes the expenditure of that money, it is withdrawn.

You are not going to charge President Osmeña, President Roxas, or myself with having taken advantage of that deposit in order to fatten our pockets. Extraordinary expenses had to be met and authorized. During the time of President Osmeña, what did he do? He had to rehabilitate the banks, the insurance companies, our industries. President Osmeña had to give funds as loans to provinces and municipalities in order to rehabilitate those local political subdivisions of our country. And we compelled our people to pay their taxes though they, too, were rising from their prostration. Our people, responsive to the demands of the government, paid those taxes from over one million pesos in 1945 gradually increasing and increasing up to 310 million pesos in 1949.

We made sacrifices, yes. We borrowed money, yes. But the extraordinary expenses that we had to bear were for the rehabilitation of our industries, of our institutions. Our object was to derive benefits from such capital investments, the wherewithal of our future Philippine Republic. My friends, you tell me now, our country is broke, the house that we constructed is still a *barong-barong*. You asked President Osmeña to go up and construct the house properly. He didn't have enough time to stay there. Then the country wanted President Roxas to go up there and do the same thing. He, too, lacked the time to do that. He had wonderful plans. We still have plans. Destiny has made me the successor of these two men. But the circumstances have not changed. We are still broke. But we dared our future because we preferred to die a free man even in hunger rather than be a mere colony of the greatest, the wealthiest, and the most powerful nation of the world. (*Applause*). That is what we have been fighting for since the very beginning. Rizal made a sacrifice to realize that dream. Del Pilar, too, suffered and all the rest of our patriots at that time in Spain. All their successors have fought hard—for what? For our freedom and independence.

And now this house is still a *barong-barong*; its posts perhaps are not strong enough, the walls are not thick enough to withstand the weather, and the roof is still leaking. I did not assume this office alone. The people selected me in 1946, as vice-president. By the constitutional mandate I had to succeed when President Roxas died. I did not vote for myself alone despite the belief of Dr. Laurel that I was not the legitimate choice of the people. The fact is, after I have assumed office and our people have accepted me as the President of the Philippines, I have become a symbol of this country and you have no right, not even if it were a beast of burden, to abuse your own symbol. I am a servant of the people, but that does not relieve you of your responsibility to respect the position and not to deprive me of the dignity and decency of my office. (*Applause*)

Now, let me turn to actual facts. You say there is graft and corruption. I admit. Why am I cleaning this government? How many people have been taken to court? How many have been kicked out of the government since I assumed office? I can well compare this administration of mine for the last three or four years, for two years and a half at least, with the record of any previous administration. I ask you to find out who has succeeded in dismissing more officials and investigating more functionaries of the government than I during this administration.

Now, I cannot be a judge, a fiscal, a sheriff, and a general at the same time, my friends. If you believe that the man who went up to repair or has continued reconstructing that house as it was in 1946, is weakening because he cannot bear the burden alone, you are not going to get a club or pick up a stone and throw it at him. As was well said by Dr. Laurel, you are as much a Filipino as I am, and don't think that you have a monopoly of patriotism. I did my best. If my hand is weak, give me the strength to enable me to strike down on the anvil of adversity in order that I may be able to shape the future of this country properly and constructively. Give me that strength so that I may discharge properly the duties imposed upon me by the Constitution. There is no sense in just crying aloud everywhere, because of pinpricks, attacks, or criticisms. I am used to them. In fact, I think I am getting calous to them. But as I said once, in the spirit of a Spanish traveler,

“Si he de parar
para oir ladrar
al perro en el camino
nunca llegaré a mi destino.”

(If I were to stop to hear the barking of a dog on my way, I shall never reach my destination.) And, my friends, that is my predicament today. Graft and corruption — did I tolerate them? Did I associate with any of them? Be more kind. Who started the investigation of the Surplus Property Commission? Who started the investigation of the supposed immigration racket? Who started investigation in all the offices? And who appointed the Integrity Board, constituted by men and women who have the confidence of the country because of their absolute honesty, sincerity, and integrity? Shall I have to answer for every detail? You will say, well, Quezon did this, Quezon did that. Yes, but how many Quezons do we have in the Philippines? Don't expect me to be a Quezon. Every dog bays and barks differently. Of course I learned a great deal from President Osmeña. I learned a great deal more from President Quezon, and I tried to profit from both. In all my life, I can never be an Osmeña or a Quezon. All I can do is to learn the good things that I have been taught, and I want to tell you that I am learning and devoting every minute, every second of my life religiously to my country. What else, my countrymen, do you expect me to do? "Kill me," as President Quezon said. Go ahead. But President Quezon taught me one thing which I am following now.

One Sunday morning, way back in 1934, he called me up by telephone. He was then President of the Senate, and he was living in Pasay.

"Quirino, are you busy?" he said.

"No, Mr. President."

"Come over and see me right now."

I reached his place. He was busy packing. "Mr. President, what is this?"

"Quirino, I am getting ready to leave this country."

"But, Mr. President, after securing the approval of the Tydings-McDuffie Law. . ." (We had just returned from the United States.) "How come that now you are going to leave the government?" Because, he said, he was going to retire in Switzerland with a plan of writing his memoirs on one of the slopes of the mountains beside the beautiful lakes of Switzerland.

And, he said, "I have really worked hard. I prepared all of you people, but some of our intimate friends, those in whom I have great confidence, are betraying me. When I was away, they did this and that. They are dragging me down in this administration. I may just as well leave you all and be at peace with my mind free from this atmosphere." In the midst of the conversation, he asked me, "Have you been to church?"

"Not yet."

"Well, you go with me."

And we went to San Beda church to hear mass. We went almost to the *sacristia*, and there (two of us were still in that corner waiting for the priest to say mass) he repeated his plan of leaving for Switzerland, resigning as President of the Senate and abandoning us in the Philippines. At that moment, I did not know what I felt. It was a supreme moment for me, and I looked at him and said, "Mr. President, remember that you prepared us."

"Yes, and you prepare to fight even if you have to fight me in order to be able to carry on the government. I want you to send the crooks out of this government."

"Mr. President, if that is my mission, if that is our mission, why in hell are you going to leave us now? Why do you have to abandon us when the work requires that you be here and help us clean the government which you want to establish to be free and independent? That is not right; it is not fair. It is almost cowardice for you to leave us at this time."

The old man bowed his head without saying a word. After mass he got me by the arm and said, "Let's go." He dropped me at my residence in San Anton, Sampaloc, and asked me, "Quirino, I want to see you at 5:00 o'clock. Let us meet at the Philippine Columbian Club this afternoon."

"Yes, at 5:00 o'clock in the Philippine Columbian Association."

I saw him there. He was the first to arrive. He was sitting beside Dr. Antonio Sison. The President was then playing domino with somebody else. As soon as he saw me approach, he got up and, utilizing his swagger stick (he was fond of carrying a swagger stick at that time), waved to me and said, "Quirino, you were right." He embraced me, took me out, and said, "I am not going."

Evidently, he was haunted or obsessed with an idea that he was going to fail in the administration of the government. And frustrated as he was, he wanted to have the opportunity of an elegant exit from the government. But because of that decision, he went back to the United States. I knew that his kidney trouble was ailing him. He went to Baltimore, to Johns Hopkins Hospital. When he was released there, he did not resign; he did not go to Switzerland. He came home and fought as he never fought before. He regained the confidence of the people in the government and held us all around him.

Well, I had a feeling also that one of these days when I am so beset with troubles here, attacks there, unsavory remarks here, unkind observations there, I would think that it is not necessary for me to continue because I have already served the government. But as long as my term is still unexpired and I have sworn to comply with my duties under the Constitution, I cannot renounce my position no matter who wants me to deliver the reins of government to another. I cannot renounce my responsibility to continue devoting my whole time to the defense of the interests and the integrity and the honor of the government for which I have sacrificed everything for the last forty-six years.
(Applause)

These are really hard times. Under the leadership of President Quezon and President Osmeña and during all those days when our foremost leaders were fighting for our independence, from the time of Rizal to the revolutionary period and from the time of Quezon to the day until we achieved our independence, the only issue was political independence of our country. But once that political independence was achieved, the only issue has been economic independence, and economic independence, my friends, is not an issue that can be successfully carried out by merely delivering speeches, by persuasion, by inspiration. Economic independence now means hard work, hard toil, cool calculation, patience, tolerance, and even humiliation and indignity. We have to tell the people how to work, how to dig, how to build. It is not a campaign of inspiration; it is a campaign of perspiration. And that is my luck; it is your luck, and if you love your country, my friends, don't pull me down while I am holding one of the rafters there in the midst of this economic or financial storm in the country. Help me; give me your hand, if you really are a patriotic Filipino. You must not pull me down. Lift me there because the Constitution provides that you have to respect my term of office.

My friends, we are talking sharp. I did not expect to speak so earnestly this evening as I had to. In fact, when my friend Dindo Gonzales asked me to be here I told him fondly I wanted to have a pleasant time. We even thought of having somebody here render some musical numbers. He said there would be some sort of enticing voice, and I was attracted. He said the central idea was cooperation. Good, that is what I need. I didn't ask him to organize this evening's banquet. That was their original idea, and I was very happy to be invited to this banquet because I thought it was an opportunity to hear the other side, to hear another kind of talk from people who don't belong to my party. It is not true that I do not care for advice. On the contrary, I am being criticized for hearing too many advices. Nobody is self-sufficient, as Dr. Laurel aptly said. I shall not presume to be one. But, my friends, let us be more practical and sensible. Our country is not only unstable financially but we are being threatened with extinction because of present world conditions. It is necessary that we employ all our intelligence, organize our energies, and pool our efforts in order to save this country of ours because this country, after all, is not mine alone, and the ruler of this country is not Quirino alone. It is the government that rules this country. Quirino is only incidental. At a time such as this, therefore, it is opportune to talk of cooperation, the kind of cooperation—constructive cooperation—that helps. We are tired of negative talks, my friends. What do we get by going tomorrow or the day after tomorrow everywhere, in a street corner, denouncing every once in a while that So and So is a grafter or that there is graft and

corruption in the government; that our finances are poor, when you can not offer anything to solve our own problem?

If you want to help me clean this government, tell me who is the man to be fired. Don't just make a blanket accusation that this government is corrupt. I have the Integrity Board. You have Dr. Bocobo there; you have Justice De Joya of the Supreme Court; you have Judge Diaz; you have Mrs. Lim. All these people are in earnest in trying to help the government clean its ranks of undesirables. Why don't you go to them, why don't you come to me and tell me "this sonnamagun is a grafter." But tell it to me. If you don't have the evidence, I will look for it, but tell me who is the man. Don't keep me guessing. It is true that there are really some people who are taking advantage of their office; there are some. But this is a country which has established a democratic process of procedure to go after the grafters. I can, of course, accept their resignation. But it is not yet the time to do so because I am reorganizing this government. The Reorganization Commission report is not yet in. I see Mr. Paez here, a member of the Commission; and Mr. H. B. Reyes, who is here. The target date for the report of that commission is August 31 of this year, and my authority to reorganize the government extends up to January 5. Let us not make haste because haste makes waste. If you could endure to see the members of the cabinet or the other officials who are appointees of the President for the last four or five years or even much longer, you could wait for another one or two weeks.

My friends, the problems of the country today are so complicated, so multifarious, so pressing, and so important that even if you called Rizal, I dare say that he would not be able readily to solve our problems in one month, in two months, or even in one or two years. Even if President Quezon were alive today, the same problems would harass him. The people that will take advantage of their position will be the same men. We have been able to select some of those we could salvage during the last political debacle in this country but some of them are getting old. We are preparing new men; we are preparing new elements. I am preparing some of the Jaycees; I remember some of them—Ramon del Rosario, Ramon Araneta, Carlos, and several other young men and young women. I am even trying the women elements, placing one member in each board—the Integrity Board, the Import Control Board, the Price Fixing Board, and all the other advisory boards that I am creating, giving the opportunity to our women population to come here and contribute their share to the solution of our problems.

I offered a position to one who is rich. She turned me down and said, "Leave me alone; I can help you from outside." I offered the same position to another one, a wealthy one, "Oh", she said, "somebody else is more fitted for that position than I." My friends, I must confess that there must be more civic spirit, a spirit of self-sacrifice. When President Quezon said, "My loyalty to my party ends where my loyalty to my country begins," he forgot that there are individual ambitions or interests that will intervene. He should have added also, "My loyalty to myself ends where my loyalty to my country begins," because everybody here thinks of himself. He believes that he is a leader; he believes that he can do everything that can be done under the sun.

My friends, let us disabuse our minds. We need to organize, coordinate, and systematize our efforts and energies, our intellect, our experience, in order to be able to cope with the present situation. Now, why do we have here in the Philippines one of the most distinguished missions that were ever sent by the United States to this country upon my invitation—the Bell mission? It is an acknowledgment, a confession, that this country is really in need of some technical assistance and advice from the United States. Knowing how fatherly that country has always been to us; knowing the continued concern of the United States of America for our future, not only for our independence but for the freedom of the democracies in this part of the world, I dared ask President Truman to help us and assist us in the preparation of an economic program that will fit better our situation and save our country from debacle.

My friends, that mission is still here, while we are exchanging brickbats telling "He is a crook. He is another one. Your government finances are wrong. Your program is wrong," and repeating all those things to them and to the whole world without making any suggestion as to what we should do. Even if you have suggestions, if you just keep them to yourselves, how could you assist the mission and how could you assist finally this country in working out an economic and financial program that could be the basis of a financial and economic stability so that we could continue enjoying the freedom and liberty that we now enjoy? My friends, I appeal to you for more sense of proportion and value, for more practical sense of approach to our problem and for more patriotism, forgetting ourselves. I regret that there is no time left so that I could consume as much as my two previous speakers have consumed. As a matter of fact, I think they even forgot that there was a third speaker and so they consumed all the time that I should have used in order to clarify more in detail the position of this country. But it is not necessary for

me to be too analytical at this moment because you and I know our situation, hence you are denouncing every day our defects. The question is who will come forward honestly and sincerely and patriotically and offer to solve our problems? I challenge everybody to come forward.

I am very happy to have heard from Dr. Laurel such sensible approach to our problems and his readiness to serve the country even if he is not going to be in the government. That is the kind of patriotism that we need today. (*Applause*)

Charity is the central idea of this reunion. I understand that the fifteen, twenty, or fifty pesos that you had to contribute in order to be here will be distributed among charitable institutions. When you go out, I hope that in your heart of hearts you will feel that sense of charity that whatever has been done or said here you will consider with charity, at least for me, and with malice to none.

¹ Extemporaneous speech before Manila Lions, August 19, 1950.

² José P. Laurel, President during the Japanese Occupation.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Message of President Quirino on congratulating General MacArthur for the successes of the United Nations forces in Korea on September 29, 1950

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
On Congratulating General MacArthur for the successes
of the United Nations forces in Korea**

[Released on September 29, 1950]

GENERAL
TOKYO

DOUGLAS

MACARTHUR

THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES JOIN ME IN TENDERING THE WARMEST FELICITATIONS ON THE SUCCESSFUL ISSUE OF THE RESISTANCE TO NAKED AGGRESSION BY THE U.N. FORCES UNDER YOUR INSPIRED LEADERSHIP.

AS IN YOUR CELEBRATED RETURN TO THE PHILIPPINES, YOU HAVE ONCE AGAIN BRILLIANTLY EFFECTED A PEOPLE'S LIBERATION BY THE LEGIONS OF FREEDOM PLACED UNDER YOUR COMMAND, AND THUS STRENGTHENED THE FLAME OF HOPE ANEW IN THE HEARTS OF ANXIOUS MILLIONS THREATENED BY A NEW TYRANNY.

ELPIDIO QUIRINO

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Message of President Quirino on congratulating General MacArthur for the successes of the United Nations forces in Korea. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(9), 4205.

Twenty-fourth monthly radio chat of President Quirino

Twenty-fourth monthly radio chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines To his fellow countrymen

[Broadcast from the Mansion House, Baguio City, October 15, 1950]

My Fellow Countrymen:

In my last radio chat with you in Manila, I stated that the previous month was a crowded one. It was really one of the busiest months during the administration. But the month that has just passed was even more eventful, not only from the point of view of the local scene, but principally from the point of view of the international scene.

I have practically completed the reorganization of the cabinet, and the reorganization commission is now making a follow-up in the general scheme of government reorganization, busily assigning and adjusting the different offices and agencies of the government to the corresponding departments to which they logically belong.

I have filled the most important key positions in the judiciary as well as in the executive department. I have appointed two members of the Supreme Court, the chief of the appellate court, one member of the Court of Appeals, the solicitor general, and several judges of first instance to fill the consequent vacancies. I have abolished the Shipping Commission and consolidated two government controlled corporations, the PRATRA and the NARIC, creating a new office in their stead, which is the PRISCO. This new corporation is now functioning normally with the full complement of the board membership already appointed, including the managing director and the assistant manager. The new corporation is now in the best of reorganization.

Other corporations that are being consolidated are the NAFCO, the RICPA and the NLSA. This will mean a great economy in the operating expenses of these combined entities. In a few more days I shall be able to complete a reorganization of the government controlled corporations in an effort to untangle the government from the complicated economic and industrial confusion into which we have been thrown due to our eagerness immediately to cope with the situation created by the abnormal economic conditions after liberation.

But the most important changes of the past month were changes which are now revising the face of the world itself. We have been identified, in a modest way, with recent world developments. Our men have been fighting not only for the preservation of the independence and sovereignty of South Korea; they are with the United Nations forces in an all-out effort to help unite the Korean people. Thus, we are engaged not only in the preservation of freedom and independence of one country but in the unification of North and South Korea.

These are eloquent evidences of the validity and fulfillment of the efforts of the United Nations General Assembly to stabilize world peace. At this very moment, President Truman and General Mac Arthur are conferring in mid-Pacific on Wake Island, on the best approach to the problems of peace in this basin. They are focusing attention on a problem of development and protection of the democracies in this part of the world.

Verily, democracy has now the initiative at this moment. It has been asserted in South Korea in the actual field of battle and it is now being extended to North Korea. It has been asserted in the General Assembly of the United Nations. Overwhelmingly Russia has been defeated in that high council of 60 nations. It is being asserted in the high councils of the democracies throughout the world; Besides, the democracies are eager, willing and determined to implement the United Nations policy of universal peace. The international climate is more favorable for a permanent adjustment for peace.

In our own sphere, on our own soil, there must be a corresponding favorable climate for peace and tranquility, if we are to achieve and most effectively play our role, as we have thus far played it, in the universal effort to secure world peace. Certainly there could be no logic to our crossing our own border to defend other peoples' rights and sovereignty, and democracy itself, if we neglected or minimized the great problem facing us in our supreme effort to secure that favorable climate in our country for our permanent growth and stability.

You must by now have noticed the unusual activity of our government today to shake up the whole country and create that favorable climate and atmosphere conducive to the solution of many of our ills that have been working or have been utilized as a deterrent, in our determined march towards rehabilitation and stability.

I foresee in the immediate future the great necessity to instill in the minds of our countrymen the peace of mind and tranquility so indispensable in the solution of our pressing financial and economic problems. Within the next few months after the submission of the Bell Report and when we are ready to implement the expected favorable recommendations we have to show our capacity to get out of the rut into which we have been thrown by circumstances largely beyond our control.

I am convinced that our friends and allies, particularly the United States, have realized the importance of preserving the Philippines for democracy. The grave issues between democracy and totalitarianism will find this local stage as the most opportune situs for an eventual solution.

And we have to decide among ourselves once and for all whether we are for democracy or for enslavement. We can no longer countenance the continued defiance to the democratic institutions which we have established with great pains and expectations. We must eradicate communism in our land if we expect to survive as a free liberty-loving nation.

This calls for national solidarity and the supreme power of will for our own self-preservation. We are to employ every means, invite every assistance, and impose upon ourselves and demand upon others national discipline for the purpose.

Whatever may be the part that each individual citizen of this country can play in an effort to contribute his bit in this all-out offensive against the enemies of our freedom and security, everyone among us has the inescapable duty to share in the national burden. My friends, we have had enough of unnecessary, unelevating and useless bickerings. We have had enough of hate and distrust among ourselves, engendered by many causes which are not necessary for me to describe at this time.

Now, the time has come for us to discard all that bitterness in our national relation. We must now yield to reason and conscience, and concentrate our minds, our hearts and our souls on our supreme efforts at survival.

I now call upon the good sense and patriotism of every citizen of this land to respond to the challenge of our national needs. I call upon everyone to preserve this dear land of ours from chaos and tyranny. Our local atmosphere for peace is clearing as the world atmosphere clears. But our country is still in grave peril from within and from without. We must unite now or face destruction.

We must be strong. We must be solid. We must have the will power to face a stable, bright future. I cannot ask for anything less. We cannot do anything better.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Twenty-fourth monthly radio chat of President Quirino. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(10), 4805-4808.

Message of President Quirino on the anniversary of the First Philippine Assembly, October 16, 1950

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the anniversary of the First Philippine Assembly**

[Released on October 16, 1950]

The First Philippine Assembly formalized the first representation by popular suffrage the Filipino People had under the American regime, or under any regime for that matter, to design their own destiny.

It inaugurated the democratic system in the Philippines on a broad national basis.

It discovered and developed the leadership that constituted the Philippine participation in the enterprise jointly undertaken by America as the senior partner and our country as the junior partner to build the first authentic democracy in Asia.

The vicissitudes of stress and storm our people since have passed through and survived, the progressive succession of victories won over problems raised by early inexperience and subsequently by increasing assumption of responsibility towards complete independence, attest not only to our people's political aptitude and ability but to the honesty and singleness of purpose of the first Western democracy ever to encourage national self-determination in our part of the world.

Out of the first assembly emerged Sergio Osmeña and Manuel Quezon, polestars in our march to freedom, and a host of others. Together they gave form and substance to the nation's aspiration which today is our Republic, a respected, self-respecting member of the free world. They can have no better monument to their labors.

It should be a touching moment indeed on this anniversary that the surviving members of our First National Assembly should be here to bear witness to the realization and reality of the object of their endeavors and pains.

I salute them, in all gratitude and humility, as surviving representatives of that noble company. By their efforts they have made manifest our people's genius for freedom, for all the world to see.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Message of President Quirino on the anniversary of the First Philippine Assembly. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(10), 4808.

Speech of President Quirino on the anniversary of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, October 31, 1950

**Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the anniversary of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines**

[Delivered on October 31, 1950]

Fellow Boy Scouts of the Philippines:

This is one of the proudest moments of my life. I accept your award of the medal of the Silver Tamaraw with genuine gratitude.

By this token, you have perfected my qualifications as a member of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines; you have placed me alongside the noblest and most heroic boy scouts not only for our country but also of the world.

You have classed me with our most beloved boy scout, Judge Manuel Camus. You have elected me to be on the same aisle that our most distinguished boy scout and friend, Colonel Joe Stevenot, had graced.

I thank you from the depths of my soul. You have given me new strength, new faith in my resolve to measure up to the dimension of the true boy scout that I aspire to be—a true friend to every man and beast—ever considerate, ever helpful, and, above all, ever loyal to his fellow-men and his country.

At this proud moment of my life as a private citizen and as head of the state, I wish to enlarge on the boy scout's virtue of loyalty.

To yourself be true, it has been often said, and it shall follow, as the night the day, that you cannot be false to any man. Sooner or later, your real self will manifest itself.

To yourself be true—in other words, be yourself; be your best self as God has chosen or ordained you to be.

I say that to myself every time I am tempted to be somebody else that I am not and never can be. Often in my supreme moments of anxiety to measure up to my great responsibility to the nation, it has been whispered to me, even shouted to me by my neighbors and fellow citizens, including my own well-wishers, with varied motives: be like Quezon, be like Osmeña, be like Roxas.

My friends, I challenge any fellow citizen, any Filipino, who claims that he entertains greater pride and admiration for these immortals of our race. I yield to nobody in revering them for their greatness and in loyalty to the incomparable spirit of service they have rendered to their country.

But I submit, because I know, that I can only be Quirino, not Quezon; only Quirino, not Osmeña; only Quirino, not Roxas. Within my limitations, as Quirino, I can only strive to emulate the industry, the courage, the faith, the patriotism of these great man and distinguished countrymen.

I am compelled to be Quirino only and no more nor less, and as Quirino I shall accept the measure and ultimate judgment of my fellow boy scouts and fellow men. I would not be true to my best self if I tried to be somebody else. I would not be true to my neighbors if I attempted to be that which I am not. Nor would I be true to my country and my God if I pretended to pass for something that I am not.

The seed of betrayal in any man's heart is planted when ambition becomes presumption, when presumption becomes pride, and when pride suppresses or rejects the compulsion of self-respect simply to gain primacy and impose power over others. The good Lord and Almighty spare me and spare any fellow boy scout from such an ambition.

These are times that try our loyalty to ourselves, to our fellowmen, to our country. I can find no better insurance against the tragedy of betrayal than the boy scout code of honor which commands him to be true to his best self—the self that forgets itself out of consideration and in service for others; for what matters if you are sacrificed at the altar of public duty?

All I would ask is: pray for me, fellow boy scouts of the Philippines. Pray that I shall remain true to myself in order to be always true to my fellow men, to *my* country, *your* country, *our* country!

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Speech of President Quirino on the anniversary of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(10), 4810-4812.

Message of President Quirino on Armistice Day, November 11, 1950

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On Armistice Day**

[Delivered on November 11, 1950]

We celebrate Armistice Day this year with a nostalgic longing for the peace that we thought would be ours after the first World War—"the war to end war"—had ended in 1918. However, in spite of the second World War which almost shattered our hopes we remain firm in the belief that we will finally achieve peace—the peace of the living.

The world is fortunate in having in the United Nations a powerful instrument for the maintenance of peace. This body has shown that it is determined to uphold the dignity, the freedom and the peace of man at all costs, using its influence and its strength whenever and wherever necessary. It is mankind's last anchor of hope.

Today, while we all work and pray for peace, let us be ever ready to show that we are men of goodwill and that we, together with all the other liberty-loving peoples of the world, have the courage as well as the will to defend and preserve peace and order.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Message of President Quirino on Armistice Day. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(11), 5410.

**Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino during the National Heroes Day celebration, November 30,
1950 Extemporaneous Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
During the National Heroes Day celebration**

[Delivered at Fort Santiago, November 30, 1950]

Mr. Chairman:

Your short introduction flatters me beyond measure. I have come to this hallowed spot for the second or perhaps the third time ever since I was released from confinement in this grim compound together with many whose faces I now see before me, and who suffered with me in the dungeon cells not as mercenary prisoners as many here seem to have tried to disparage our confinement but because of our connection or suspected connection with guerrilla activities in the city of Manila. The surroundings have not changed since then. There is only one mark changed and that is that in this area there no longer flies another flag but ours.

True, I gave my pledge when I first visited this place, that this should not be made a military reservation for any country because this spot is so precious, so historical. It is a monument to our struggles for freedom, and enviable monument to our triumph over tyranny and oppression. During this short fleeting moment that I sat with you on this spot, I have tried to relive those moments of anguish when on top of that wall I was confined as a political prisoner and later on was transferred to that building in a cell next to the cell of Colonel Santos who used to commune silently with me about the grim happenings outside of these cells. There has been no change either in the atmosphere or in the walls. They still look grim. But I look with witnesses at the blood and tears with which we distilled the sacrifices and sufferings of those who were detained during those days.

I have not come to dwell on those details which only covered an insignificant portion of our life as a nation because today we turn our eyes on high and remember the heroic dead, not only of the recent past, but all past generations as well. We pause to remember at this moment their great deeds, their noble examples, their exemplary conduct, and the patriotic fervor with which they suffered in their struggles for our liberty and freedom. Unable to erect to each and everyone of them a monument as a fitting resting place, or to erect a tomb where we could enshrine our eternal gratitude for their heroic example, or unable to write in detail the endless stories of their untold sacrifices and sufferings, we now erect a tomb in our hearts and try to emulate in our future actions those which have distinguished our heroes and martyrs.

It is not true literally that what we need today are the heroes of yesterday. Every epoch has its own heroes and every hero has his own epoch, I once said, and I love to repeat it, as it is fitting to repeat it at this moment. The sacrifices of our heroes of yesterday are good examples. However, their manner of conduct, of living, of trying to unify this nation, and of erecting a substantial country in order to provide us with a life of contentment and peace for our country and people—this is no longer the same. The circumstances, the climates, the problems and the peculiarities of each and every leader in his respective time—not all of them fit on the present occasion. True, we must have the same spirit, we must emulate the same character, and we must be fired by the same determination with which they fought for us in the past, but to call them back to life now and tell them “You lead again,” I am afraid they could not live the same life that they lived if they lived today.

It is for us to stand where they left off, to proceed and realize the ideals which spurred them to patriotic action. Our life as a nation must be taken as a unit. During those days as in our days, they, too had their own problems; they, too, had their own divisions, they, too, had their own fratricidal fights and conflicts; and there were tales also of killing one another. But we don't judge them individually by their actions. We judge them by what has been accomplished by their epoch, by their generation, by their history. So we today who still live in a heroic age must also do something, not merely imitate but even surpass what they did, because our country has progressed by leaps and bounds ever since it has been known to exist as civilized nation.

The problems of today are so complicated, so multifarious, so difficult, and so hard for us after going through innumerable vicissitudes in the recent past. For a time we have become bewildered, not knowing the direction to take when we come to the crossroads. And yet the instinct of our race, the strength of our character, and the patriotic fervor which has inspired all leaders of the past as well as the leaders of the present, are still there; and so long as this nation retains all these characteristics of the race, I am quite sure we will further broaden the horizons of freedom and liberty and achieve what is assigned to us to make of this country greater, happier, more enduring and eternally sovereign. This is our mission. This is the challenge of the day. We want to do something so that the past can be proud of the present. And, in our endeavor to improve always on present accomplishments, we want to be worthy of a bright future.

So, my friends, as we gather here today, we rededicate ourselves to those principles which made our heroes of the past the recognized leaders of the nation, leaders whose character and examples ought to be imitated or emulated; and as we accept the challenge of this age, we, too, want to be the heroes of this epoch. Who knows, here in this congregation today there may be another Rizal, there may be another Bonifacio, there may be another Mabini, another Del Pilar, another Antonio Luna, or another Quezon. Who knows but that we may have such men in this congregation if we just preserve the pristine patriotic character of our race, a race that has known to fight for its freedom and liberty, a race that has made crimson of its shores, its mountain fastnesses and even the rivers in the mountains simply because it didn't want to succumb to foreign invaders, a nation that, although penniless, still looks on high and expects the Almighty to shower on us the blessings of national life because we believe in Him, we, the only Christian nation in this part of the world.

With this history, with this tradition, with this historic past, my friends, and the exemplary conduct of the heroes whom we remember today, the new Philippines has great prospects.

Let us now be guided by a different atmosphere. Every time that we celebrate the National Heroes Day, every time that we remember the dead, every time that we remember the vicissitudes of the past, every time that we look upon our grim present and become desperate of our future, we seem to erect around ourselves, produce before our eyes, figures that terrorize our own populace and make our future look dark and gloomy.

This country is not a country of perpetual Halloweens in which one gets a skull to scare the others, for that is the only thing we do: use figures or objects to scare others or make others shiver by means of skulls of the dead or skeletons. This Halloween party must be stopped. Our country's atmosphere must be changed. There must be something, some transformation from negative to positive action. Positive action is what our country needs today. We have grappled with many problems of yesterday. We have gone through all these vicissitudes with victory and triumph, and all the world recognizes our efforts. Why stop and brood over our dark past when a bright future is within our reach? My friends, I invite you on this solemn moment to rededicate ourselves to the high principles of patriotism, to the great examples of our heroes of yesterday. Let us adopt a new norm of conduct of positive action and cooperate and do something to make of this country substantial, enduring, brighter and happier.

This is the message to you. It is not a message to those who no longer listen to us because they are dead. But it is a message to those who, by a fluke of fortune have been spared their lives in spite of the many sufferings they have gone through and who continue to suffer and sacrifice although they may as well be considered dead. I am addressing myself to those who, although they have not fought yesterday, have a chance to fight today. I am addressing myself especially to the youth of this land who, tomorrow, will bear the same responsibilities that now weigh on us, so that we may be able to show something of the pristine character of our race and be conscious of our great responsibilities for which they are now being trained by circumstances and by education. They should grapple with the problems of the day with determination so that this country may continue to be free and happy.

Thank you. (*Applause.*)

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Extemporaneous speech of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, during the National Heroes Day celebration at Fort Santiago, November 30, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46 (11), 5417-5420.

Message of President Quirino on Christmas Day

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On Christmas Day**

[Delivered on December 23, 1950]

My Countrymen:

Christmas comes to us this year amidst dark threats of another world war. That, however, should not detract from the magic spirit of Christmas and we should not miss any of the gladness of the day. Every man, woman and child in the Philippines should give thought to Christmas and its eternal message of peace and good will, generosity and loving kindness. For this is also the message of the family hearth, friendly thoughtfulness and pious, even godly regard for the joy and happiness of others. It is from the release of these human feelings and sentiments that mankind, sorely tried, can derive fresh courage and inspiration in the face of seemingly overwhelming burdens of daily living.

As we celebrate this wondrous day in mutual well-wishing and gift-sharing, we can look forward to the New Year with a new resolve to try to save from total wreck the true spirit of humanity that is reborn on Christmas. We can then carry that thought and translate it into a living hope in the New Year.

In a very distinct sense, we in the Philippines have every reason to be merry this Christmas. We have had our share of the year's troubles and turmoil, but on the whole our people have demonstrated their innate capacity to bear the twists of fortune and life's challenges. In spite of the extraordinary difficulties of the past trying months, the main foundations and fabric of our national existence remain intact. This proves how strong and pliant the Filipino spirit is. It is our greatest asset and on it rests our best hope for the future.

My special thoughts turn today to our gallant men of the Tenth Battalion Combat Team now fighting somewhere in the icy wastes of Korea and their families who will miss them on Christmas Day. With all our countrymen and Christians every where, I greet and salute them and pray that their fight may soon be over; that they can come back sure in the thought that they have contributed their share to the preservation of our cherished institutions of which Christmas is the greatest symbol.

With the soldiers who are in the field all over the country and their families, I share the unshakable faith in the righteousness of their struggle for freedom. To the farmers in the fields and the workers in the factories, to the teachers and the employees, to the traders and the tradesmen, to all who have borne the brunt and will continue to carry the burden of national existence, I extend heartiest greetings and best wishes.

And to our misguided brothers and sisters who have resorted to violence and the life of the outlaw, may the spirit of Christmas touch them and bring them back to the ways of peace and constructive dedication.

Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year to all of you.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Christmas message of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, December 23, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(12), 6015-6016.

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino on the Barangay Day, December 16, 1950

Extemporaneous Speech of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines On the Barangay Day celebration

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, December 16, 1950]

Heretofore, our Government has adopted a paternalistic attitude in considering measures that should have been the concern of local governments. This fostered weakness and developed in our local governments an attitude of complete dependence on the national government. Although local political subdivisions have been vested with specific powers, these powers have not been utilized to the extent of cultivating in these units the spirit of independence and strength. Consequently, the national government, in the spirit of helpfulness, has been extending to these political subdivisions the necessary aid not only in matter of administration but in all matter of improvement and even in relief.

As a matter of fact, it is the national government that strength from local political entities. Like to stress now to the local officials should derive its This is what I should who are gathered today on this momentous occasion. The responsibility for the success of the barangay is placed squarely on your shoulders from the moment you raised your hands and pledged your loyalty to the barangay organization. Whether you like it or not, it is incumbent upon you to see to it that the organization is set up in your respective jurisdiction. Whether you like it or not, the people will expect from you success in the execution of the policy of this organization. Whether you like or not, you are required to work hard in cooperation with the national government to see to it that this ancient idea of rural organization revive, revitalize, and invigorate the nation.

Do not minimize the situation of the Philippines simply because our own compeers see it fit once in a while to discourage individuals or groups, or their actuations during the times of political upheavals, especially during elections or immediately thereafter, when we place before our people, before the scrutiny of the population, the prestige that they enjoy and the honor that they should deserve. Let us not minimize the grave responsibilities to future generations because whether we like it or not we have accepted the challenge of these responsibilities and we will have to be made accountable for the success of this enterprise.

But the most important thing is that it is of immediate concern to preserve this country to which you pledged your ability, your capacity, your genius, and all your efforts to uphold and establish not only to dignify our race but to enable our people to enjoy the new blessings that democracy has brought here.

My friends, each governor, city or municipal mayor, and district official—and I also extend this address to councilors and even to barrio folks—should be made to realize his respective responsibilities in the community. We have to extend the benefits of this Government and the liberty and freedom that we now enjoy to communities heretofore neglected or ignorant of what is happening in our centers of populations. It is necessary that we strengthen the small units in the villages, in the valleys, and ever in the mountain fastnesses and ravines because it is not only in the centers of population that we breathe free air but throughout the length and breadth of the country. In order to do so, we need instrumentalities to reach these small units. The governor cannot inspect all the municipalities as often as necessary. The municipal mayors and officials do not expect to be able to reach all the barrios within their respective jurisdictions as frequently as they are expected to do, and even councilors quite often do not go beyond the confines of their respective local jurisdictions. It is necessary that we reach our friends in their homes, in their barrios, and make them feel the concomitant responsibilities of those civic organizations in order that they may realize the great benefit to be derived if they will accept the responsibility of being the agent of the municipality, of the city, of the province, of the national government, in the realization of the national policy which may involve distribution of benefits as well as equitable responsibilities to be placed upon their respective shoulders.

This is the spirit of the barangay. I did not conceive this organization as a new scheme. It is a legacy from the past. It is a recognition of a nation's custom which, ingrained far and deep in the minds of our populace, has had its beneficent results not only in matters of government but especially in matters of community or individual family life. In those days the barangay organized here by the Spaniards were highly respected by our former masters. In those days even the small officials, desired so queerly that we used to ridicule or disparage them in after years, are now memories to us but their influence, their beneficent intervention in the promotion of the welfare and protection of the respective communities, still lingers in our memory.

It was during those times when I was still young that I had an opportunity to observe in Manila the last glimpse of the aging sovereignty of Spain. I still remember some of the early barangays, and remembering them as I recall them today I think that we might go back and call upon the people in the barrios and villages to assume the responsibilities that our forefathers assumed during their time and see if we can have the success exhibited by our ancestors.

The barangay is not a military unit, much less a political or partisan organization. It is purely a civic organization voluntarily organized under the supervision of responsible persons. It can be converted into an agency of the national government not merely for relief or assistance but as interpreter or mouthpiece of the national government in all the undertakings sponsored by the central government. It may also serve as an instrumentality for members of each community to study their common problems, to feel their respective responsibility in their limited jurisdictions, and to promote immediate relief to family or neighbors. We cannot expect our population to realize that responsibility unless we impose it upon them. No one would volunteer to assume the role of leading a community at the risk of his own life and fortunes. It is necessary to infuse in the mind of every citizen that idea of responsibility, that idea of common interest, that idea of applying or developing the genius of each in order to draw something from individual initiative. We cannot expect our citizens to come forward and offer their services to the community. It is necessary that somebody has to tell them. Somebody has to induce them. Somebody has to prompt them and somebody has to inspire in them the necessity of getting together. That is the reason I conceived the organization of the barangay—to revive an old custom and infuse in the mind and soul of the people, especially of the newly created municipalities and districts, so that they plan an orderly development of their respective communities.

There is one practical question now which can afford us a test to the validity, the efficacy, the usefulness of the barangay associations at this moment. I have decided to distribute to the poor, to the farmers who have no means of promoting farms or agricultural interests because they have no farm implements or seedlings to start with, all the idle portion of the goods still in the bodega of the PRISCO. I also want to extend relief to the needy, especially in those places where the innocent inhabitants have been harassed or victimized by lawless elements who enjoy killing, raping, kidnapping, murdering, committing arson, and robbing the people of their limited possessions.

It is my desire to extend relief to the people in many communities which have been the subject of depredations, of cruel and inhuman treatment by the lawless elements. It is my desire to give impetus to increased production and I would like to distribute as much seedlings or initial capital that may be needed by the poor who cannot afford to start a decent livelihood with their own means.

All this help, pooled together, will be placed in the hands of a committee composed of national officials who are called upon to place before the people in a systematic, orderly, and scientific manner, a plan of distribution so that we may be able to benefit the needy. All these are to be carried out in the plans of the committee, utilizing the barangay agency for the purpose of reaching the masses in their outlying communities.

This will be the first test of the efficacy of the barangay association. Those municipalities or barrios which do not have a barangay system may be helpless, and it will be necessary for us to utilize the agencies like the PACSA to work for them. You know how difficult it is to depend upon these agencies when they are limited in personnel. I shall ask, therefore, the provincial, city, and local officials gathered here this noon to prepare the ground for this new activity, not only to present to them a new occasion to revive their interest in community life, but also to make the people realize that the Government has not forgotten them.

The time has come to render not mere lip service to the scheme of bringing the government closer to the people, or the people closer to the government. The time has come for us to act, and I want you to be the effective and prompt instruments of this policy in this area of our national organization. *(Applause)*

On the question of peace and order, many have been misguided by political fear; others, by military fear in connection with the issuance of the executive order providing assistance when called upon to do so by the barangay association or by the armed forces to cooperate with them in their activities. We are not arming members of the barangay with weapons to fight the lawless elements. We don't require them to be attached to the Army, to the Constabulary, or to the local police in order to discharge duties in cooperation with the peace and order agency of the government. All we want is for them to see to it that in every barangay there is a record of each and every member of the community—of women, children, transients—so that at a given moment each barangay association can tell how many people there are in that association; how many of them are women, how many are children, how many are transients, how many are in need of relief, and perhaps how many are electors. The last accounting is the fear of our friends who refuse to join the barangay movement because they think that we are going to utilize the association for the benefit of the party in power. Whichever party is going to be in power, whichever administration will have to direct the affairs of this nation, will utilize this system to promote the civic welfare of the community. And it will furnish an effective way of checking what is known as padded electoral census.

There are other purposes specified in the executive order organizing the barangay association. But it is sufficient that this salient feature be brought to the mind of those who do not understand the patriotic aim of the barangay association so that the people may be able to appreciate it.

The governors and city mayors are expected to be the leaders in the dissemination of information in their respective jurisdictions. I have accepted the recommendation of the reorganization commission to place the Department of the Interior directly under the Office of the President, because I would then have direct contact with the governors, city mayors, and other officials of the political entities. Hence, if there is any municipality which fails in the accomplishment of its duties, I have to share the responsibility. *(Applause)*

If there be opportunities, I must likewise share in those opportunities. As it is, local officials who desire to make any complaints with the Department of the Interior have to report to the Secretary of the Interior first and then to my office. I want to cut the red tape so that instead of coming to Manila to see the Secretary of the Interior before coming to my office, you can take a short cut. You can come directly to me every time to talk and discuss the matter with me directly in order to secure immediate action. This is your opportunity. Do not misinterpret the recommendation of the Reorganization Commission regarding the Department of the Interior, and do not misinterpret my readiness to accept it.

I should like to have a heart-to-heart talk with you to thresh out many new policies. You have one more year to stay in office. I still have two years. I should like to utilize that time in the service of our people. If we put our shoulders together to the wheel, we shall succeed.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino on the Barangay Day. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(12), 6011-6015.

Message of President Quirino on celebrating Rizal Day

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On celebrating Rizal Day**

[Delivered on December 29, 1950]

In this year's Rizal Day celebration, emphasis shall be given to character education. We have known Rizal well for his many-faceted genius and his sterling qualities as a man, as a citizen, and as a patriot. While we may not aspire to approximate his native talents and genius, we can at least emulate his more easily imitable qualities as a human being, traits which contributed to the sum total of his greatness.

One of the attributes of Rizal was his inflexible character. He was a real mold of the race. He reflected this even at an early age—in his thoughts, words, writings, and deeds—and unto his dying hour. Even only for this singular phase of Rizal's life as a man, we shall still look up to him for light and inspiration.

For we need and shall always need men and women of character, strong and invincible, to withstand the wild winds of temptation that break down the weak. We need citizens of firm character, ready to make sacrifices at any time and even lay down their lives for the progress, peace, preservation, and happiness of the Motherland.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Message of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, on the occasion of Rizal Day celebration, December 29, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(12), 6017.

Extemporaneous Address of President Quirino before Freemasons

Extemporaneous Address of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines Before Freemasons

[Released on January 11, 1951]

BROTHERHOOD OF MAN

I COME here gladly as a member of the general brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of a Supreme Being. I have no higher claim. As such I appreciate the occasion to extend to you the sincere fraternal greetings of one who believes with you that "he who is in the light, and hateth his brother, remaineth still in darkness," and who recognizes in you a body "composed of honorable men, free and independent, who are observers of the Constitution and laws of the country" and whose basic belief is "in God and the immortality of the soul; its object, the propagation of the truth in all its manifestations; its test, eternal progress; its torch, reason tempered by faith; its crowning gospel, liberty of conscience; its apocalypse, toleration; its end, the love of humanity; its motto, Liberty and Fraternity."

The mystic history of your organization presents the paradox of courage, enterprise, and vitality wherever men are subjected to tyranny and are denied truth, freedom, and justice. It has been proscribed as the enemy of many a despotism, and is thus strengthened and distinguished by the persecutions it has faced for standing for human dignity and individual liberty.

As you all know, the Philippines, in common with the rest of the world, is facing a crisis, a crisis that holds our freedom as a people and the fate of civilization itself in the balance. I have yet to know of any group of individuals in a better position to realize and appreciate the gravity of this crisis in relation to the future of our nation than you who are listening to me tonight.

You are witnesses to a great struggle to raise an order that can assure our people the substance and reality promised by our ideals of freedom, justice, and human dignity. And as the world crisis deepens, you and I, all of us, are brought face to face once again with the issue of survival itself.

By your precept, you recognize as your duty to assist in elevating the moral and intellectual level of society, in coining knowledge, bringing ideas into circulation, and causing the mind of youth to grow, and in putting, gradually, by the teaching of axioms and the promulgation of positive laws, the human race in harmony with its destinies.

I am sure that you can muster the vision and wisdom to translate that duty in terms of your personal responsibilities and national anxieties. We need unity here. We need goodwill, courage, confidence. We need the will to face our difficulties together and to make our contribution to their solution. Above all, we need a stronger sense of sacrifice, realizing that we have to yield many of our material advantages individually and collectively in order to preserve our prized liberties and insure our very survival.

Our greatest danger today lies in the apathy, the inertia, the plain sloth engendered by the selfishness, negativism, and partisanship peculiar to our own times. Thus, a creeping paralysis of will coupled with moral and spiritual sterility threatens to cripple us. Nothing can be more convenient to the dark forces actively engaged in our midst to destroy our free institutions and promote the confusion needed to institute their new slavery.

I feel that our problems of government, though highly practical and material, are basically ethical and call for a deep moral stiffening of the national fiber. If we *will* what is honest and right, we will do the right thing. That firm will must imbue the whole population as well as our leadership.

The ideals and principles that you uphold are in their essence the ideals and principles of Democracy. They are the ideals and principles we must uphold if the Philippines is to remain a democracy. They are the ideals and principles directly challenged in the world today by communism.

I see in you a powerful democratic and liberal agency which stands naturally and unalterably opposed to the new tyranny threatening our country.

I am equally persuaded that in the bigger, more inclusive brotherhood that is democracy, under its sanctions derived from the unsearchable wealth of our Christian heritage, we find the only authentic opportunity for any free communion to exist in complete dedication to the cultivation of conscience which creates human dignity and sets the pace of man towards unlimited victories of the spirit.

We have in this country of ours, after the sacrifices of our fathers and predecessors, the means to strengthen this democracy. We have it in the moral and spiritual resources they developed and left us, in the capacity we have to conquer what is low, narrow, selfish, vain, and grasping in our souls, in the ability to discipline our appetites and seek their sublimation on higher levels of self-denial, humility, and service.

We have it in the opportunities to achieve all this, not by the dictate of a tyrant set over us but by force of an inner compulsion of conscience that makes for individual distinction. And we have it in the freedom to assume responsibility in response to the challenge to contribute to the common welfare above considerations of self, special group, or party.

To the extent that we succeed in this direction, in our personal and collective efforts, we strengthen the brotherhood of our special and our common affiliation, we strengthen democracy and insure its survival. At the same time, we substantially contribute to the positive efforts of all men of faith and good will elsewhere, outside our borders, to preserve peace and advance human liberty.

We are due for greater progress, but this will not be automatic; it will require effort, impose dedication, and utilize the cumulative wisdom born of age-long struggle for moral and spiritual conquests in the march towards the perfection of a universal brotherhood of man.

I cannot think of anything more appropriate than to appeal to you as individuals and as a brotherhood to help create here in our midst the moral and spiritual climate conducive to good-will, trust, and unity.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Extemporaneous Welcome Address of President Quirino to President and Madame Sukarno

**Extemporaneous Welcome Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To President and Madame Sukarno**

[Delivered on January 28, 1951]

A BENEFACTOR OF HUMANITY¹

MR. PRESIDENT:

YOU HONOR the Philippines with your visit. This is indeed a historic moment in the life of the peoples of Southeast Asia. We find this occasion doubly felicitous because it marks the first time that we are being privileged to receive the head of a state in our midst. The arrival of Madame Sukarno with you gives us added pleasure in welcoming you to our shores. I hope you will find your stay with us both worthwhile and enjoyable.

The Filipinos are bound by the closest racial, historical, and geographical ties with your people. We followed with keen interest the vicissitudes of the Indonesian struggle for independence. In heart and soul, we were with you always in your fight for self-determination. We shared in your rejoicing when that fight culminated in your independence.

If Indonesia is now free, its freedom is due, in large measure, to your unselfish, vigorous, and far-sighted leadership. In thus leading your people, you have become a benefactor of humanity in its fight for liberty; you have raised the stature of a substantial portion of mankind in our part of the world to a higher level of dignity; you have earned for yourself, by your endeavors and patriotism, the esteem of free men everywhere.

My people, having gone through a travail similar to that of your own, can therefore fully appreciate the abiding value of the work you have done and are doing.

It is with a genuine fraternal feeling that I, on behalf of the Filipino people, welcome you, Mr. President, to this country. May you find during your sojourn with us increasing evidence of the kinship and affectionate regard that the Filipinos feel in their hearts for you and your people.

Footnote:

¹Extemporaneous welcome address to President and Madame Sukarno, Jan. 28, 1951.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Address of President Quirino on the Sixteenth Anniversary of Constitution Day

**Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the Sixteenth Anniversary of Constitution Day**

[Delivered on February 8, 1951]

Dear Friends:

I rejoice in the opportunity to celebrate with you the 16th anniversary of our Constitution.

We have a great document in our Constitution. The combined knowledge and wisdom of the best available minds of our people and the experience of other free peoples that made the history of the world found expression in that noble formulation of our system of government. It is comparable with the best that modern civilization has or knows for free men anywhere.

I am proud that I was one of its signers; and, if only to bring back to mind my association with the country's greatest talents who framed that wonderful document, this banquet, to me, is an occasion for rededication to the high ideals that guided its adoption, as well as a reconsecration to the best interests of our people and renewal of pledge for the preservation of their liberty and freedom.

But as we grow in years we realize that our Constitution is not a perfect document. It is not a final revelation for all time, and it was not meant to be. It is well that it was not, for it is a living thing. It must grow as we grow, and it must change as we change in response to the needs of our separate times. Verily, the Constitution lives for the people and not the people for the Constitution.

Thus, since the birth of the Constitution, the imperatives of our very own experience as a nation, more than as demanded by our political and economic transition, have required inescapable changes in the brief space of 12 years (1947 being the last time we amended the fundamental law of the land). For the nature of the government it set up combines permanence with provisions for progress.

But while the Constitution must be constantly adopting new premises from life, eliminating mere survivals from the past, it does not follow that it can be and must be changed with every fresh drift of opinion by chance, whim, or fancy.

However, there should always be reason for testifying to our capacity for improvement. On an occasion such as we have today, we do well to refresh our minds in the spirit of the Constitution to check up our bearings, adjust our sights, and strengthen the loyalties which it defines.

The spirit of our Constitution as reflected in those loyalties is something we hope to maintain through the processes of time. It accentuates and sets store by the civilian way of living together in the Republic, the way of preserving our liberties and decencies of social intercourse against the frenzies of the despotic and violent temper.

Something must be done to render more foolproof the guarantees for clean elections. The periodic expression of the popular will as a safety valve for political passions that, repressed, have a tendency to foster and poison the entire body politic, must be adjusted and synchronized to reduce not only the frequency but the expenses of elections. Experience has shown that constant political tension has marred and dismally delayed the solution of many of our constructive national problems.

Safeguards for the legitimate-succession to power, through the normal democratic processes, of able men inspired not solely by political and personal convenience, nor by force or violence, should be at the back of our minds when we consider our fundamental charter.

The task of the present and the future, a task of civilization superior to all others, is to preserve the idea of constitutional processes as contrasted with the authoritarian principle of despotism and keep it anchored firmly in the minds and affections of succeeding generations.

The sad spectacle today is the presumptuous role of people outside of the law and their sympathizers who would dictate on what the government should do to facilitate their march to power or exact their terms for the abandonment of their nefarious activities. Backed with the force of arms, the pretension is not only revolutionary but suicidal to our democratic existence. How to meet the situation squarely and intelligently but effectively is the problem of the hour. Other countries are confronted by the same problem at this moment.

Our task is rendered many times more difficult because we are building as we are being divided and destroyed. We are compelled on occasion to depart from the normal procedure by force of fact and circumstance attesting to extraordinary danger. Thus it is that in the crucial test between freedom and tyranny, between democracy and communism, the constitutional spirit is placed under the severest strain.

The mortal enemies of our Republic may invoke, as they do, the protection of the Constitution they seek ultimately to destroy.

Communist propaganda in our midst is distracting public attention from its conspiracy to overthrow our government surreptitiously seducing public sympathy by utilizing the Constitution to protect the plotters against national security.

The conspiracy is now well-known. The details of its systematic execution have taken some time in unfolding. The reports of the daily press confirm the vigor of a widespread, ruthless movement for the violent overthrow of our democratic system. "Revolution" is their confessed watchword. Enough innocent lives have been sacrificed; enough property has been destroyed.

We certainly do not propose to permit our Constitution to be used as a shield for crimes against citizens and the State, in the transparent pretense of restoring civil liberties and democratic processes.

We should be less than innocent and not allow it to be a springboard for the defense and comfort of aggressive aspirants to power, whose claim to experience in government is circumscribed to terrorizing defenseless citizens, murdering them, looting their possessions, imposing tributes, and subscribing to the inevitability of progress by force and violence.

What should challenge our action more in this perilous period is the question not only of rights affirmed under the Constitution, but of duties that devolve upon us to keep the document a living thing and to sustain a government embodying its spirit.

We have been wont to regard the Constitution as a mere compendium of inalienable rights, but seldom as a code of duties. We have been wont to think of it for what there is in it for us; quite a number, for what indulgences it authorizes and dispenses for their selfish gratification. Very few have thought much of the labor, the struggles, the sacrifices out of which the rights were earned and for which the noble document acquired meaning. Certainly, many merely thought of themselves as lucky heirs to an ample fortune that they could squander after having established their title.

What we should all know and what every new generation should know is that the Constitution can continue to be a fruitful instrument of rights only as we conscientiously contribute our share of duties in terms of our own labors and sacrifices to preserve and maintain our inheritance, our way of life, our system of government.

“The defense of the State is a prime duty of government,” says our Constitution. But our responsibility as citizens and the ordinary rights of individuals must yield for the security of the State. The duty of the State to protect the life, liberty, and property of the people requires a corresponding obligation on the part of the individual citizen.

The right to life, liberty, and property derives meaning from the obligation to respect them, protect them, and preserve them in others, not in any license for inhumanity, violence, and indiscriminate vandalism or appropriation.

The honesty, discipline, and competence called for in the daily conduct of our lives cannot be supplied by the Constitution however perfectly it is worded or however ingeniously it is amended in accordance with the latest predilections and fancies in the struggle for power. The initiative for all those imperatives must start from our individual hearts and consciences if our Constitution is to have real flesh and blood.

We should ask ourselves what we should do and what we should give to keep us strong and united in facing the threat to our freedom and common existence—even yielding on occasion and for the moment certain of our individual rights where they are outweighed by the exigencies of common security and wellbeing.

A good citizen makes a good government; a good government makes a good constitution. In the same way a bad citizen spoils a good government; a bad government spoils the best constitution.

Civic virtue or civic conscience is essential to good government. Where the citizen lacks it, and tolerates disrespect of the law or abets the flagrant violations against life, against property, against civil rights, he helps undermine good government, himself becomes a menace to good government, and society. Where the citizen, lacks civic virtue, he easily falls victim to distrust of government fomented and fostered through consistent, mischievous political propaganda to compensate for defeat and frustration.

My dear friends, in your own provinces, you have seen numerous examples of crimes systematically committed against the life, liberty, and property of innocent men, women, and children. If stout lovers of the Constitution come out to defend the perpetrators of these crimes and apologize for them, we should not be surprised if we had a meaningless Constitution. And we should be less surprised that, realizing the danger, we avail ourselves of the extraordinary remedies under the Constitution for the security of the State and for the protection of the poor, defenseless citizenry.

We are not giving the Constitution a chance to succeed if we easily fall for enemy propaganda that exploits the constitutional spirit to effect the destruction of our free institutions, if we let the enemy divide us on the artificial issues they create to camouflage their conspiracy and distract us from the urgent job of restoring the peace and tranquility of our communities, increasing our productivity and raising the general well-being.

We are not giving the Constitution a chance to succeed unless we take to reinforcing our moral and spiritual sinews, unless we let our conscience govern our action and rule out the fears, distrust, and bitterness among ourselves which vitiate common understanding and cooperation.

The Constitution cannot supply us the character we need and lack. On the contrary, we must develop integrity that can make our Constitution, or any constitution, a valid charter of our liberties.

Members of the Philippine Lawyers Association, you can be of immense service to the system of freedom that our Constitution celebrates by developing our moral resources and dedicating them to the charter’s broadening fulfillment in our daily thought and practice. You can reduce to the minimum the technical hocus-pocus for evading duties and responsibilities and for creating issues that serve to confuse, divide, and embitter the people when the need is for good will, understanding, and solidarity.

As individuals and as a people, we can survive our perils and emerge the stronger when we cherish the Constitution not merely as an affirmation of rights but as an injunction to civic duties for the perpetuation of a free and democratic system.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). Address of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, on the Sixteenth Anniversary of Constitution Day, Manila Hotel, February 8, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(2), 628-631.

**Extemporaneous Speeches of President Quirino and Ambassador Dulles Extemporaneous Speeches
of**

**His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines**

and

**Honorable John Foster Dulles
U.S. Secretary of State**

**After the formal dinner given by the President
in honor of Ambassador and Mrs. Dulles**

[Delivered in Malacañan, February 12, 1951]

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

About two years ago I had occasion to invite the attention of the American people and government regarding conditions in the East. I asked then the eyes of America to turn to the East. My invitation at that time was not warmly heard nor accepted. But since then I have been observing a great change in the attitude of the American people and government. And today America is looking toward the east. The United States has sent her special envoy to come and see the East. We are certainly fortunate and I wish I can look back to this moment that Ambassador Dulles has found time to reach our country and make a study and observation of the conditions obtaining here.

In the past we have been overlooking—many of us two peoples on both sides of the ocean—the Philippine situation on its moral and idealistic phase. Many of us have considered the Philippines as a mere military objective and in its defense we have been measuring the capabilities of both peoples to defend our country from the point of view of military strategy.

We have been forgetting the moral value of the continued existence of the new Republic to the United States and to the world. Thus, the moral and the ideal phase of our defense has been neglected or minimized. And the material, or military and economic defense, has been given more importance and immediacy, and the lasting moral and ideal defense, or defense of the ideal, has been considered in secondary terms. The first is only temporary; the latter, permanent. The former affects the life of the nation; the latter, its soul. The Philippines as a country will never die, but our democracy may die. It is the soul and the ideal of the people that must concern us—if we have to live as slaves or as freeman with dignity.

America has made a great investment for the perpetuation of a new democratic life in this part of the world. That moral heritage we would like to keep; we would like to be its exponent in our region; America expects us to be the living example in the realization of her benign policy to make free men, lifting their standard of living, of peoples long held in bondage. You even go further by representing us as the “show-window” of democracy.

America's mission here is more important than merely democratizing an already civilized people and a well established government. These will know how to take care of themselves. We are still rising from our prostration. And yet we are expected to carry out America's mission.

Mr. Ambassador, I am glad that you have come to study and observe the relative importance of America's responsibility in the Orient. We have been looking forward to this opportunity to review with you our situation in the light of the most distressing moments in our lives as free peoples.

Our international clock has been slow in the past. Other peoples across the seas, whose preferential claim to your attention has detained America for some time, and whose pressure for assistance has held the hands of our Far Eastern clock, are now properly organized. And you again designated your best military genius to work out a program of defense in the Atlantic seaboard.

All we want here, the peoples of the Orient, menaced to the same extent as your allies in Europe, is to set up our proper defenses with America's guidance, sponsorship, and effective support; so that when the hour of redemption from the evils of Communism arrives, it will strike simultaneously, not only in the Atlantic but also in the Pacific, and throughout the whole world, to the honor and glory of the United Nations, particularly of the United States of America, the new-found leader of the free world, and ultimately of its great President, Harry S. Truman.

(Toast to President Truman.)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Extemporaneous speeches of President Elpidio Quirino and Ambassador John Foster Dulles after the formal dinner given by the President in honor of Ambassador and Mrs. Dulles at Malacañan, Monday evening, February 12, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(2), 632-633.

Extemporaneous Address of President Quirino at the University of Manila Homecoming

Extemporaneous Address of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines At the University of Manila Homecoming

[Released on February 18, 1951]

THE HUK PROBLEM

I WAS thinking whether I really requested the committee in charge of this affair not to require anybody to deliver any formal speech. I did say that the cares of State were overtaking me; that it would not be possible for me to prepare any speech. But I didn't say that nobody should deliver any formal speech such as the speech you have just heard from Mr. Santos. (*Applause*)

This reminds me of what happened to Mark Twain and one of those after-dinner speakers, whom he used to meet on every occasion. Tired of writing after-dinner speeches, they agreed to swap speeches, so that while one delivered a speech believed to be his own and for which he would be highly applauded, the other would deliver his companion's speech and later on in the confusion both of them would be applauded. Thus the spirit of rivalry would be erased from the mind of the audience.

Once Mark Twain appeared at a big dinner, perhaps bigger than this, with so many ladies present and, of course, he wanted to shine just as his colleague wanted to shine. But his partner had to speak first and he delivered a very beautiful, convincing, eloquent speech, fundamental in all respects, and he was greatly applauded. So Mark Twain, not to be outdone, confessed that he had an arrangement with the previous speaker to swap their speeches so that one would deliver the other fellow's speech, and vice versa. So when Mark Twain got up to speak, he said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, you have just heard my speech. I am sorry that the speech of my friend was left in my drawer before I came here from my hotel, and I have nothing to say."

Doctor Santos has just delivered my speech (*applause*) and I am sorry I forgot his speech.

I want to thank you for this honor accorded me this afternoon because this is an opportunity to be with you, in an atmosphere so different from that which prevailed when you conferred upon me the first honor in your university compound. It was at a time when President Roxas was still lying in state at the Malacañan Palace and in reverence to him and to the presence of his unburied body at the Palace hall, I could not devote more than five minutes of my time to say a few words in justification of the honor accorded me as the sixth honorary alumnus of this now famous college of law of the University of Manila. The atmosphere was so sad, so distressing, and on top of that I had just returned from a trip down south in order to recuperate. So it was no exaggeration to say that I was living on borrowed time. I was going to initiate my duties as head of State on borrowed term; I had borrowed two years of President Roxas' term. It was fortunate for me though perhaps not for the people, because many do not agree that I am doing just the right thing — one of my intimate friends who said that is my friend Judge Guevara, who is here. (*Applause*)

I will attempt in a few words, giving at random my views on a certain aspect of the national work that we have accomplished in order to place this country in a more stable, enduring position. It is difficult indeed to mention the fact that among the chief executives of this country I am the least favored by circumstances to hold the reins of government. I inherited so many ills, multiplied or increased by some people who were associated with me but who did not realize that they were doing a little bit more harm by increasing the unhappy burden placed upon my shoulders. But I shall attempt to show you that I am determined to remove this.

The honor conferred on me upon my assumption of office was a reward for past accomplishments. I had to leave this country, cross the Pacific and the Atlantic, go to Asia, and return to the Philippines within the period of eighty days

seeking conferences with the heads of State in the cities I visited. I consulted with all the chancelleries of Europe in Berlin, London, Paris, Stockholm, Berne, Rome, and Cairo.

I had to do all this in order to be well informed of the measures that were being taken by countries which were reconstructing or rehabilitating themselves. My purpose was that when I got back to the Philippines I might be able to readjust our own reconstruction and rehabilitation in line with the world readjustment. I had to work as nobody else had ever worked on matters touching on our foreign missions and I had to travel far to merit what you call a reward at that time when I was still Vice-President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs. But whether you consider this a reward or not, I want to confess that, more than a reward, I took it as an inspiration, as an encouragement to proceed with my new duties as head of the State.

From that time on, I worked hard and long to be able to justify the honor accorded me by the electorate during the last elections, in view of the fact that there were so many misgivings, so much expectation and recrimination. I began to discharge my duties in an atmosphere so depressing, so disadvantageous, and so discouraging that I was harassed, attacked, and criticized everywhere. One could have lost his head. Thank God I did not lose mine. You will pardon me if I speak longer because this is my only chance to make a comeback on Judge Guevara. (*Applause*) Even Congressman Pelaez there has criticized the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus*. All the rest seemed to have looked with disfavor on this executive action which they thought would be curbed by the legislature or by the court. It is only my heart, my conscience, my own interpretation of the Constitution that dictate what I should do on this matter, and that I cannot renounce. It is my responsibility as long as I am placed in a position where I have to answer for the rights and the protection of the individual liberty of the citizenry.

I want to bring you back to the old days in order that you may make comparison between the time of Quezon, the time of Osmeña, the time of Roxas, and all the other Chief Executives of the past. It is not true that the *habeas corpus* was never suspended in the Philippines before. Just for banditry and cattle rustling at that time, the Governor General suspended the writ in Batangas and Cavite. The case was taken to the Supreme Court; it was sustained. Mere banditry and cattle rustling! Today what do we have? Men who rob you not only of your cattle but also of your property. They rob you of your lives; they rob you of your children; they rob you of your wives; they rob you of your daughters, most of whom they rape, kidnap, and murder.

I do not have to repeat here the news that you read daily. You must recall those places where people have deprived our citizens of these fundamental rights to live and to enjoy liberty and freedom. I shall return to this point later on but for basis of comparison, I want to repeat that this is not the first time that the writ of *habeas corpus* has been suspended in the Philippines. The American Governors-General who came from the country where democratic ideals and principles rule and where all the freedom of speech and of the press has been enjoyed, established the precedent here. For what? For banditry, lawlessness, and cattle rustling.

During the time of President Quezon no such thing happened. But remember that in those days there was no revolution. The organization of the Socialists in Pampanga headed by Pedro Abad Santos was still in its incipient stage. We used to go there; I used to go there myself. I visited almost every municipality in the whole province of Pampanga to dissuade the Socialists from their attempt to organize a body that would cripple the government because they had been disgusted with the life in that province. The feudalistic system that was established there and elsewhere in the vicinity they threatened to eradicate. They were right. I still believe they are right in destroying that feudalistic system. But we went there; we helped them; we asked them, "Why did you destroy that cane field owned by an absentee landowner?"

They answered, "He reduced our wages."

"Who was he?" We called him to correct the wrong, and he corrected it. They engaged in organizing themselves in the dark. During the time of President Quezon, we had the Socialists in Pampanga, the Ganaps, and the Sakdals elsewhere. There were also attempts to kill people. If President Quezon did not suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* at that time it was because the troubles were sporadic. There was no plan of overthrowing the government; there was no overt act of rebellion; and there was no danger national in character in accordance with a pre-conceived national plan to seize the government and place the plotters in power and deliver this government to another power and make

us lead the life that we now detest — communism. It is only recently that communism has come to control these organizations and implement them with subversive plans and acts of general violence, atrocities, and inhumanities.

During the time of President Osmeña, there were Hukbalahaps, but they did not constitute a danger to the government. On the contrary, they were associated with President Osmeña. You remember when Taruc went to Iloilo accompanying Mrs. Osmeña in the campaign of 1946? You remember Secretary Confesor who went to the extent of making love to the Huks in Pampanga and of converting them into allies of the party in power then? How could you suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* at that time when our officials were associated with these people who are now wreaking vengeance on us; doing havoc in our country, sacrificing lives of the people whom we have sworn to protect, and destroying the liberties we have pledged to preserve?

Now you come to my time because the interregnum between President Roxas' assumption of office and his death was marked by prejudice which had it lasted up to the last election of 1949 would have marked the fall of the party in power then and would have changed the whole country's situation. There were the Huks, but we were able to curb their inhuman activity, unholy designs, and dangerous attempts on the government.

I personally went to the very heart of Huklandia. I went to Bahay Pare without any arms and conferred with Taruc and all his associates surrounded by men who were armed, with all their banners, red flags. I just went through the line. I was not exactly afraid but I was confident they would not harm me and that confidence gave me strength. Right there I delivered a speech. Openly they voted to cooperate with the government. I could not suspend the *habeas corpus* then because they offered their cooperation.

Afterwards, I was double-crossed, so to speak. Unwittingly I gave them an opportunity to get together and organize themselves better. And when the time came for Taruc to go back to the hills after collecting his salary, his allowances, his per diems, and all the emoluments attached to him as a member of Congress, and after treating him as my personal guest in my residence and shaking hands with him as a gentleman, he went back to the fields, the mountains, to do what? Not to commit vengeance against me as he has no personal grudge against me, but to carry on the policy or program of wresting power from the government. I defy any of those people who went to the field to prove that they have any personal grudge against me. On the contrary, this hand — the left hand — which I have been using all the time, has always been the dispenser of charity — food, medicine, shelter, schools, bridges, even mobile units to entertain these people.

That was the help that was extended to them. But believing that all my smiles, my friendship, my humility, my high consideration for them — because it was my endeavor to win them over — believing that my attitude was an expression of weakness, they began to defy the government. From 1950, their system of campaign has developed into one of revolution. We have gotten hold of a record of their complete plan of revolution. They have their own politburo; they have their own military organization; they have their own men to do all these violent actions in order to sow hate and confusion, capitalizing quite often or all the time on our financial crisis for which I alone cannot be held responsible.

If I spent more money in the early days of my administration, it was because that was the only way we could get P200 million from our deposits from the United States with which to implement our program of reconstruction and rehabilitation. In the expenditure of this 200 million pesos, what did we do? We gave impetus to the reconstruction of our bridges, roads, hospitals, puericulture centers, and schools. Wharves, custom houses, irrigation systems were rehabilitated. The money we spent was for capital investments and I challenge any of you here, including Judge Guevara, to show me that I spent more for myself than any of my predecessors or that I was more extravagant than I should have been.

The daily expenses of Malacañan when I assumed office were from P400 to P700. How much do I spend now? Around P100. What do I eat? *Sinigang*, *pinacbet*, and sometimes *saluyot*. (*Applause*) I never wanted to make *pasikat*. I was never spectacular and people thought I was not doing much. But I want you to scan the record and check up on the accomplishments of this administration and be fair in the estimation of the values in the final evaluation of the actuations of this administration or this government. I am not very proud of my accomplishments but I have three years more within which to present my final accounting. We are going to spend more because this is

the time when we have to spend. When will you spend your money? Why do you keep your money in the bank? Why do you keep your money in the *alcancia*? Why do you keep your money in the folds of your wife's dress? Why do you buy so many earrings once in a while? When do you pawn them and when will you spend all that money? It is during the time of crisis. What is the purpose of saving money? Save for what? To be a miser when you are already hungry?

And remember that our expenditure today is not for any other activity than for national defense, for the maintenance of peace and order, which represents 48 per cent of our total appropriations. Thirty-eight per cent is for our schools, for education. Why do we have to spend so much for national defense? I did not provoke these gentlemen in the fields now hiding in the mountain fastnesses and ravines, lurking in the dark, coming down to forage once in a while and hiding their counterpart among these intellectual forages in our own midst. (*Applause*) All this has come to pass because of special circumstances.

My friends, the arms they have—who gave them? First, they got them from the Japanese, they got them from the Americans, not officially but surreptitiously and through the intervention of some calculating members of the Armed Forces not only of the Philippines but also of the United States. All the junk that we have here—the depots containing arms and ammunition — we didn't give those arms to them. They connived with some of our own officials, Americans and Filipinos alike, in charge of those depots.

These things never happened during Quezon's time, nor during Osmeña's time. President Quezon could not issue a proclamation at the fall of Corregidor suspending the writ of *habeas corpus* because he had no jurisdiction over the whole territory; it was already in the hands of the Japanese. Osmeña could not suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* during his time because the men who are now harassing us were on his side.

Shall I follow the examples of others who were guided by different circumstances? I have to judge things as I see them under my very eyes and my very nose, and interpret them in the light of recent and current events. My friends, the movement in the Philippines is not confined to our territory. It is part of a world movement; it is part of a world program of aggression. We who aspire to establish here a permanent, secure, enduring government, must establish first internal security. Our token force to Korea of 1,200 men cannot compare with the great force that we need here to maintain internal security and tranquility. The war is here. We are just contributing our forces to the war effort to curb that world movement of Communist aggression. But the essential thing, the most immediate thing to do here, is first to protect our homes, our children, and our future. That is what concerns me immediately.

When the Constitution of the Philippines was being discussed, it was President Quezon himself who wanted to clothe the Chief Executive with power even greater than that of the President of the United States. He knew the idiosyncracies of our people. He knew the danger ahead and wanted to place in the hands of the Chief Executive the greatest power possible so that at a given moment he could utilize the executive arm to stop anything that might be considered as an obstruction to our continued enjoyment of liberty and freedom. That is not only the spirit; it is the letter of the Constitution.

When shall I exercise my power to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus*? Shall I wait until the dissidents have exterminated the people in the outlying districts? Shall I wait for the Hukbalahap revolutionists to enter Manila and howl in the streets? Shall I wait until they have razed to the ground all public buildings; have burned down all our hospitals; have raped, kidnapped, and killed all our women? Not I. (*Applause*)

My friends, this is a practical question. It is no longer a question of party, to be the object of a fine, hair-splitting constitutional dissertation on principles of government. It is a practical question which we have to face and we have to face it with practical measures. One such measure was the rounding, up of the members of the politburo. Was the detention of these plotters in Manila haphazard? It was not. One of their own members came to me and said, "Mr. President, I have long suffered following my comrades in the fields, in the mountains, in the forests. I have come to realize that I am just being dragged into a movement which will take us into an international conflict."

"Our plan was to overthrow this government. Here are my associates." He named them.

“Where are they?”

“In such a place.”

“What are they doing?”

“This is in charge of research. The other is in charge of military action. The third is in charge of robbing trains. The fourth is in charge of our treasury, to get funds to finance the campaign. The rest are employed to harass the communities so that there will be confusion. This group is in charge of proselytizing, increasing the membership of our organization by bringing one in every three month.”

“Where do they get together?”

“In such a place.”

“When can I round them up?”

“Any time you want.” So I told the MIS (Military Intelligence Service), “Come here, listen to this gentleman. So and So is in the list; so are others. They are all in the group. Their program of revolution is complete. I don’t want you to do any piecemeal detention. Simultaneous action in one day.” And they swooped down and they arrested more than one hundred. Of course, there were some in the group who were not actually affiliated with that nefarious activity and macabre plan. They were released. But those who were actually engaged in that movement were taken to court.

The very confession of their own scheme was a fact. The plan is not only clear: it is complete, it is dangerous, and it is imminent. There is revolution now. There is not only imminent danger thereof; and under the circumstances, the Constitution gives the Chief Executive the power to suspend the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* so that these people, once they are detained, may be locked up somewhere because if they are turned loose, they will go to the mountains and continue coming down foraging, harassing, killing, and murdering our people in the outlying districts and even here in the very heart of Manila.

The suspension of the writ is not against the Constitution. They say it is lawless. If it is in accordance with the Constitution, how can it be lawless? How sarcastic is the attitude of some people, those newly discovered political philosophers of the day who only address themselves to the galleries. I am not answering them individually. But I want to warn you, my dear friends, that this campaign of discrediting the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* is part of the program of these revolutionists in order that we may restore the writ and give them a chance, (*long applause*) give them a chance to meet with us again and continue their nefarious activities.

If you love your country, if you love the liberty of your children, if you love the liberty of your own future, be more sober in assessing the facts and circumstances surrounding this executive action. And I want to tell you, my friends, that that is not the only concern of the day. We have to clear this country of these dissidents—political, intellectual, business dissidents—because there are also business dissidents, those who made a campaign against taxes—lawyers who lobby against the approval of certain taxes to pay, not their own, not the small fellows’, in the street, but the big corporations’; aliens’;—selfish motives! Nobody is going to be affected by the 20 per cent exchange tax among our people here—only the big corporations. It is true that ultimately but in a smaller degree they will affect prices but the government is also establishing agencies to control prices. That is what the PRISCO is established for. That is why we have arms of the government keeping close surveillance over those who; pocket money at the expense of our own people. They can be curbed.

In negative talks they attack here, illwish there, and even wax sarcastic. (*Applause*) Once in a while, you know, you have to hear and to be gracious and to be generally good natured to these people. But they seem to interpret tolerance, humility, friendship as a confession of weakness—of lack of courage. But they will see now. I have closed my fists and you will see my action. Thank you very much.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Extemporaneous Address of President Quirino before the college students

Extemporaneous Address of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines Before the college students

[Delivered on March 27, 1951]

YOUTH AND ITS ROLE¹

I PURPOSELY remained in Baguio instead of going down to Manila and holding a cabinet meeting there today, to do honor to this, the first congress of collegiate student youth organizations of the Philippines. In doing honor to the delegates, I have been highly honored, not to say flattered, by your vice president who said the youth of the land is at my command. No greater, no stronger encouragement can be given to me at this moment than to hear that the youth of the land is solid, not behind me but behind this administration.

You represent the cream of the youth intelligentsia of this country. I see before me the material for leadership of this nation. It was time that the youth of the land got together, as you did this morning, to realize your great responsibility and to play the role that you should play on the national stage, because whether you like it or not you form part of the national community.

It is my understanding that many of you are working students or are working through college. So did I during my college days; those days were working days, not only student days. Many fail to realize that the great majority of the youth of the land today, either in their respective activities or as humble workers in the different offices and political subdivisions of the Government, are actually discharging their duties of citizenship and that they are as much nation-builders as those who are older in age and have been placed in high positions in the government. Many of those who are non-working students fail to realize that they too constitute the necessary element in the formulation of public opinion that should gauge the activities of the nation.

Many of you are electors and as such have a voice in your government. When you elect your representatives in the government, you exercise your civic duties not only because the Constitution so imposes but because it is necessary that having reached the age of maturity you must express your will and assert your individuality in the formulation of national policies. So, either as working students or as regular students, you can not escape your responsibility in nation building. Such being the case, you might just as well get together and discuss among yourselves in order to determine in what manner you could make more effective and efficient your participation in the affairs of state.

I still remember I was denounced during the convocation of the University of the Philippines student body where I expressed my surprise that the youth of today are no longer as militant in participating in the discussions of national issues as they were in the last days of our struggle for independence and sovereignty. In those days the University campuses not only of the University of the Philippines but also of other higher institutions of learning were converted into sounding boards for the analysis of the quality of independence that should be granted to the Philippines, and for such other national issues as those affecting our sovereignty as a country, the broad local problems affecting the form of government, and those issues that arose immediately after the grant of our independence. I recalled particularly the days when the country was divided into “pros” and “antis” on the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act, and those days when the question of national leadership was widely discussed throughout the country in order to determine which was more adaptable to our idiosyncracies and character as Orientals, whether the leadership of one person which we call *Unipersonalista*, or the leadership of a group of persons called *Colectivistas*.

In those days I enjoyed observing how active our young leaders were in participating in those important issues before the country. But the activities, the enthusiasm, and the aggressiveness of the youth during those days lagged behind for some time, perhaps because our country was more concerned with individual and the collective

rehabilitation of our home life and of our country immediately after liberation and they found no time to engage in discussions regarding the new issues that had arisen after the grant of our independence.

But more than five years have passed since then and I still observe, in many quarters, that perhaps because of the great sufferings we went through during the last world war, or feeling the need of forgetting the worries of the home and the worries of the country, the youth, and, I might add, the general populace have thought it better to indulge in a spirit of cheerfulness, of hilarity, and of enjoyment.

It is a tribute to the high sense of responsibility of our youth that now the leaders of the youth association or student council of each university have found time to get together and consider the serious problems confronting the nation in the face of universal commotions. Youth certainly cannot stand still, with your arms folded in contemplation of the sad spectacle to which our country is now exposed, especially in isolated districts, in the outlying barrios, where people are toiling hard to rehabilitate themselves after the ravages of the last war and while they try to rise from their prostration are being victimized by our lawless brothers who prey upon the toils, earnings, and even the lives of the weaker members of the community. You cannot fold your arms while this national tragedy is being perpetrated.

I remarked during my recent appearance before the University of the Philippines that so many of our people were engaged in scrutinizing, in hair-splitting discussion of the minutest details regarding our Constitution, in an effort to find fault with the suspension of the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*. They give the impression that somebody has a monopoly of patriotism in this land and that there are only a few people who can interpret the Constitution rightly, justly, and timely, forgetting that individual rights which the government seeks to protect are being endangered, sacrificed, and nullified.

Those of you who, during your daily toils in your schools, devote your time to scanning the pages of human knowledge through your textbooks, have been led to believe that the constitutional rights of citizens have been trampled upon because of the suspension of the writ of *habeas corpus* privilege. That is not the right approach to the matter. It is the permanent, general interest of the country that must determine in the interpretation of whether it is right or wrong to exercise any power granted under the Constitution. The Constitution reserves to the Chief Executive the exclusive privilege to determine when such suspension should be decreed or promulgated. Not even the Courts, much less the Congress, can interfere in the exercise of that privilege, unlike in other countries like the United States where the Constitution provides that the exercise of that power is conferred upon the President with the concurrence of the legislative body.

In our country, only the President can determine that. Acting in all consciousness of my immediate responsibility, observing how many thousands of people are being sacrificed every month—small children, pregnant women, old men, even patients in the hospitals being murdered, virgins kidnapped, whole populace massacred, their treasury ransacked, public buildings and churches reduced to ashes—I decided it was my solemn and inescapable duty to exercise my constitutional right. All these rampant destructions by the lawless elements of today, all these appalling and blood-curdling spectacles, all these unpalatable facts nobody can deny or ignore. Rather than pay attention to those poor, helpless victims in the outlying districts, many of our friends devote their time in their cloisters, in their rooms, in their law offices, and even in their political meetings to discussing or questioning the constitutionality of the suspension of the *habeas corpus*. Why don't they cooperate effectively and immediately instead in curbing the crimes and atrocities of the misguided elements of our country?

Yes, I admit, Mr. Chairman, that I was one of those who expressed surprise that the youth, the civic minded citizens, and the so-called patriots should pay more attention to scanning the Constitution and less to protecting the lives and property and the future of the poor people who, every day, are being sacrificed on the altar of power in order to deliver us to a foreign country. (*Applause*)

I am glad that you have come to your own. I hope that this 27th of March, 1951, will mark the beginning of a period of systematic study, intervention, and cooperative effort on the part of the youth and that as a result of that new spirit we shall be able to lift the burdens of centuries upon centuries which we have been carrying ever since we struggled for freedom and independence in this, our land.

There are three things that should occupy your minds from the beginning, three fundamental things that should guide your immediate action, in fact your every action: first, domestic tranquility; second, economic development; and third, national unity and national discipline. Your country today is being put to the severest test for survival. After centuries of struggle for our right to forge and shape our own destiny, we finally have that privilege today. But the freedom and independence that has been placed in our hands is again at stake. The whole world is struggling once more for liberty and freedom. The old democracies of yesterday are crumbling one by one at the advance of a new imperialism, a new slavery trying to get a foothold in our own land. You don't have to cross the China Sea; you don't have to cross the Pacific; you don't have to cross the Atlantic; in short, you don't have to go from one country to another in order to see the great struggle for that liberty and freedom. It is right here in our country.

Not far from Baguio, it was reported to me that fourteen inhabitants of Candaba were captured in the swamps of that municipality. How did they look? With long hair and a peculiar earring, with a pin looped through the left ear and kept there—the hammer and the sickle. What strange fanaticism is creeping into our country today!

There were days when the *colorums* of Pangasinan were busy with a fanatical practice almost similar to that of the time when the *bandoleros* around Cavite and Batangas banded together to wrest from innocent people what they could not earn themselves honestly and justly. There were days when in Samar and Leyte the *pulahanes* were also engaged in similar depredations, robbing and killing people; when the *ganaps* or the *sakdalistas*, emboldened by the new theory of socialism which our country was trying to foster in the beginning, took socialism as an excuse to wrest power from the government so that they could continue propagating or extending socialism as a repudiation of the existing form of government; days when President Quezon himself had to go from province to province in Central Luzon in order to induce the misguided elements to surrender—the *sakdalistas* and the *ganaps* who staged bloody encounters in certain towns of Laguna, Tayabas, and in the vicinity of Manila. But never in the days of the *colorums*, the *sakdals*, the *ganaps*, the bandits of Cavite and Batangas, the *pulahanes* of Samar and Leyte, not even in the days of the Mores when they continued to rise against the established government, did we see such systematic, bloodthirsty, heinous, inhuman, atrocious activities as are now being perpetrated by the new fanatics, monsters in human form, wearing earrings adorned with the hammer and the sickle.

The country is confronted today not only with social revolution but also with fanatical aggression which sweeps aside human liberty, human feelings, and the Christian faith. My friends, if this country has to survive, we must eradicate those elements right now or we shall perish.

We thought at first that this tendency was only the fruit of dissatisfaction or maltreatment suffered by some humble farmers in Central Luzon who were once the victims of an old, outmoded feudalistic system. But we have discovered to our sorrow that these deluded fanatics have been steadily indoctrinated with something worse, that will spell national disaster if we don't look out and stop a dangerous campaign of general massacre and inhuman acts on the part of our misguided brothers in Central Luzon who through deceit and false promises are now trying to get fresh recruits from all parts of the country.

It is not only the loss of life; it is not only the loss of property; it is not only the loss of liberty among the people affected, but the permanent interests of the state that are being jeopardized. Our lands are laid waste and the farmers are being systematically driven away from their homes in outlying barrios. Agriculture is paralyzed, our industry is paralyzed, and everybody becomes jittery at the approach of these Soviet—indoctrinated outlaws. It is necessary that today the entire country should act. Please don't leave the whole responsibility to the government. The government does not have sufficient means. It is powerless on many occasions to cope with the situation because of lack of funds, lack of ammunition, and lack of active support from the public. The innocent, ignorant people in the outlying barrios should not be allowed to suffer.

Huk propagandists say that this government cannot be trusted; that it is a government of crooks; that the officials help themselves instead of helping the people; that this government is composed of men who monopolize all the privileges and powers derived from the government, ignoring the laws and even trampling upon the rights of individual citizens outside the government. More brazen lies can hardly be conceived. These maligners of the government are worse than those who, seeing a man construct an edifice, throw stones at the builder, and when he comes down, they get sticks and club him—mock at him and hold him up to public ridicule here and abroad. These

detractors degrade their government and the individuals who compose it, and besmirch the honor and dignity and prestige of their countrymen and their race.

This must be stopped. Nobody has the monopoly of thinking right every time and nobody has the exclusive gift or foresight of choosing the right path every time he moves. There must be respect for individual rights, respect for the collective rights, and respect for the name and dignity of our country and race. This is part of the national discipline that we need to impose upon every Filipino. Until we have imposed this obligation upon ourselves and unless we show respect for the state, for our people, and for the future, we shall never have in this country that peace of mind so necessary to a man engaged in the constructive work of nation-building.

The three essential things we need today, I repeat, are: domestic tranquility, economic development, and national discipline. Economic development is the mainstay of this nation. Gone are the days when we had to lean upon our successive masters because we were unable with our own talent and our limited means to develop our country. We have enough men and enough means in our country today. If we can only employ our men and exploit our means we shall need no assistance. National dignity requires that we stand on our own feet. We were not born as a nation to be guided by others. The privilege of shaping our own destiny is in our hands and we should prevent as much as possible any foreign power from telling us where to go, when to move, what to say, what to think and what to aspire for.

Those who come to help us have studied our potentialities and have the know-how to exploit them while we, the owners of all these lands that God has given us, are engaged in petty local bickerings, quite often attaching more importance to insignificant partisan political advantages and sacrificing the whole permanent interest of this country and of the people. We should no longer import articles for our consumption. We can be self-sufficient. I don't say that we should not admit any other imports into this country, but our potentialities and our means of developing them can make us a self-sufficient nation. If an ambitious program which I used to call — and I think I should still call a program of total economic mobilization — must be realized, we must study how you fit into this national program of action. Lands we have in abundance. The quality of our soil is superior to that of any other country. As you all know, our rivers and lakes abound in food resources and electric power. Our population is growing steadily; we have an increase now of a yearly average of three hundred thousand people. We are barely 20 million today but soon we shall be thirty, forty, or fifty million, and with fifty million people busily occupying themselves in the exploitation of our fertile lands and our vast potentialities, and with our determination to fight for our rights as a nation, I am quite sure that with the international ties which we have established and the great recognition that was given to the Filipino people, this country will rise as one of the powerful countries in this part of the world. *(Applause)*

Remember that countries today are not respected simply because of territorial sizes. It is the moral leadership, the principle of how a country should be run, the integrity and the character of the people that determine its greatness. Those who only love military aggrandizement, who aspire to rule the world are transitory. It is the thing of the spirit that lasts. As long as this nation has honor and faith, as long as it occupies itself in building for its future and can stand the test not only of civilization but of culture, it can and will be great. And that is what I envision of our country. *(Applause)*

But, my friends, we need to be united. The peculiar position of our country, divided as it is into so many islands, must be supplemented by something that will mean closer attachment and stronger union of our people. Our country should be better united, especially if our youth realizes that unity and national discipline are necessary for the establishment of a stable, strong, and enduring Republic.

My friends, I know that you have come from different parts of the country. You are all imbued with one national purpose so well and eloquently expressed by your vice-president. If what he says, which pleased me highly, is the guiding principle of your organization, I hope to establish in these Islands with your help a life of freedom, of dignity, of happiness and contentment.

Footnote:

¹Extemporaneous address before college students, March 27, 1961.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Message of President Quirino on the commemoration of the death of the late President Manuel Roxas

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the commemoration of the death of the Late President Manuel Roxas**

[Released on April 14, 1951]

As we commemorate the third anniversary of the death of the late President Manuel Roxas, we find ourselves still in the midst of tribulations in the great task of building the Republic whose firm foundations he principally had laid. Those of us who had the fortune of closely collaborating with him as he labored under discouraging circumstances to lift his people from their prostration and guide them to their high destiny, know how he gave himself freely and passionately to his task.

Today as we forge ahead in the work of rearing an enduring Republic, we remember Roxas as we always will—his magnanimous heart, his passionate love of country, and his devotion to duty—to inspire us. His memory will forever live among the builders of our nation and in the heart of every patriotic Filipino.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). Message of President Quirino on the third anniversary of the death of the late President Manuel Roxas. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(4), 1732.

**Commencement address of President Quirino at the Conferment upon him of the Degree of Doctor of Laws,
Honoris Causa**

**Commencement address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Conferment upon him of the Degree of Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa*, by the Far Eastern University**

[Delivered on April 19, 1951]

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board of Trustees, Members of the Faculty, Members of the Graduating Classes, My Friends:

The spirit in which I have been received this afternoon by this great University inspires my noblest sensibilities. And the distinction erstwhile conferred upon me more than touches the human heart. It affords a rare encouragement to one who has made of public service a consecrated vocation. For this privilege my gratitude gentlemen of this great University, is indeed unbounded. It becomes a challenge to mind and conscience to make of this event a worthy occasion for serious reflection. Anxious eyes have been expecting that on this memorable event I may give an answer to one speech delivered somewhere in the vicinity of Manila. I shall not make that answer because the Far Eastern University has given an eloquent answer this afternoon.

Certainly, the conditions of the world today are such that we have practically no choice but to think for the most part in global terms, in spite of ourselves and whatever the limitations of our intellectual or official range. The need for so broad an outlook thus becomes a self-imposed responsibility, even to those not in authority.

The present world is fittingly likened to the human body. The least of its members, to the extent of a finger, cannot be pricked without the entire organism being immediately conscious of the injury. Part of that organism may have become paralyzed by the infiltration of some destructive substance, yet the body remains vividly aware that something dangerous is infecting or affecting it. The earlier we attempt to effectively bridge the gap between awareness and suitable action, the better is our chance to appreciate our position in the world and feel secure, not to say at home, in it.

I carry the notion that our ability to understand the world as it is now and adjust our ideas accordingly will determine in large measure our success or failure to fit into the pattern of our national and community life and to give amplest fulfillment to our individual and collective potentialities.

It has been the practice in the past to adopt policies of the State only to adjust government institutions to prevailing local conditions in a given epoch. For this reason fundamental policies or political systems of governments or countries varied since human civilization required ordered existence as within the functions of government.

Tribal institutions were the basic organizations during antiquity. Gradually, tribal chieftains became kings, kings became emperors, and regional institutions became national. And, as popular consciousness developed, hereditary titles became constitutional, monarchies became republics, and kings became presidents. But the duties of citizenship were invariably confined to the discharge of individual responsibility to the existing forms of government in each country. After centuries of political development in the different countries in all climes, those duties, until recent years, had been limited merely to those devolving upon the citizenry within the borders of each nation.

And so an over-emphasis on nationalistic tendencies was cultivated and, in many cases, exaggerated. Darwinism as a theory was exploited to the limit to rationalize the greed behind modern regression to the primitive jungle instincts. The doctrine of "everybody for himself" was held to be the only valid human motivation. This apparently justified the clash of interests and even of arms among governments in their international relations.

Today the new struggle is for world supremacy, ostensibly to advance a worthier life for the human race. To avoid the sacrifice of millions of lives in the struggle requires the severest test of human understanding.

In our age, therefore, when internationalism is daily exerting itself to advance world understanding, it is imperative that citizenship perspective should develop apace with the progress of that understanding. The citizen of today must acquaint himself with conditions prevailing in other countries with which relations have been established in many aspects of international life.

It is a fact no one, none of us here can blink that he lives in a divided world. By individual attitude or conviction, he is committed, or should be committed, to one side or the other. It would not help him any to nurse the illusion of being neither for one side nor for the other, or that he could be with both as a third force, in order to account adequately for himself as a world citizen. If he is only thinking of his personal safety, the margin that he enjoys in being all things to all sides is negligible indeed. The crossfire may hit him sooner or later—assuredly, he will be hit—without resolving the question of the honesty of his heart or of the worth of his person.

Knowing that he lives in a divided world, the true world citizen should understand what his side of it seeks to preserve, continue, and improve. It is not enough that he professes loud adherence to a political order based on Constitutional rights, free elections, and untrammelled expression of opinion, a competitive economic system providing a broad latitude in pecuniary rewards, social mobility and fluidity, religious freedom, equality of opportunity. These are identified by the word democracy, which today is seen to be more than a political formula, a system of government or a social order. It is also regarded as a search for a way of life in which the voluntary free intelligence and activity of men can be harmonized and coordinated with the least possible coercion. Its supreme merit is held to be that it frees the human mind and fosters the experimentalism without which men cannot successfully adapt themselves to a changing world.

The world citizen should be no less aware of the other side from which he is excluded by inflexible iron curtain, and with whose philosophy of violence and methods of dictatorship the dissidents of his own country have made him familiar. There are cracks in those curtains through which he can catch glimpses and see the wide disparity between the extravagant claims and the reality. The citizen should ponder in what way other than violence and absolutism beneficent changes may be effected to succeed or reduce the age-old evils, in protest against which a potent revolutionary system has come into being. Instead of preaching or encouraging revolution he should, rather, set an example of constructive evolution.

I submit that a citizen adequately informed of the world in which he finds himself today will be more able to adjust himself to the exigencies of community life. In being conditioned for a higher and broader level of citizenship by the daily impact of that knowledge on the community of nations and the developments among them, he sees insurance for better understanding and effective neighborly association in the limited community in which he lives.

It would seem odd, not to say paradoxical, that this process should be expected to bring the desired result to achieve peaceful and fruitful local community life. But this should be because by broadening his horizon and thinking in terms of national unity and duty, of the rights, conveniences, and privileges of a neighbor nation, the citizen could become more understanding and tolerant in his dealings with his own close neighbors at home. For it is easier and perhaps more convincing for a man to compare his duties with those of the world outside than with those of his own immediate neighborhood, as it is certainly hard to explain why a person should be more considerate to a foreigner than to his own countryman. By this way, this is one of the most repugnant practices rampant in some sections of our country. When some of our populace receive foreigners, they lavish every courtesy to him and yet when a poor individual in the neighborhood, perhaps barefooted, perhaps in rags, perhaps hungry, comes along, he seldom gives one-tenth of the attention he shows to the foreigner. What a sad commentary to ourselves and to our free institutions!

Now what are the duties of a world citizen today? He should be not only familiar with conditions prevailing in other countries but also alert and immediately responsive to new ways of life, new thoughts, new inventions, new vision, and new manner or manners of approach to the multifarious problems confronting the different nations of the world that have accumulated for ages but demand solution in our own age. He has to be many-sided, placing himself at

times in the position of those people of other countries, to see how he would react if he were to conduct himself towards a neighbor or representative of a neighboring country.

He has to discard many idiosyncrasies that have been outmoded or become obsolete to keep pace with world advancement. His thoughts require adjustment for fruitful passage along new avenues perhaps heretofore unfamiliar to him. He has to develop a new feeling of relationship to cultivate that sense of international understanding that would best fit him as a citizen of his nation in its relations with other nations. He has to develop short-cuts in the fulfillment of his international obligations so as to comply more efficiently and effectively with his duties at home and as a member of the new society.

As humanity grows and as he must contribute to that growth, he has to find means of contributing by increased production in many ways to provide for that growth. Perhaps he has to accelerate his pace in the accomplishment of his daily tasks so as to catch up with the effective modern techniques in human activities. He will therefore use his scientific knowledge not to augment human suffering but to increase modern convenience and enhance human happiness. He would encourage the Newtons, Cavendishes, Faradays, and Darwins to freely exploit human knowledge to enrich life and diminish disease. He would look upon the advancement of atomic science as a means, not to extinguish all culture and civilization, but to build a better world.

While the new citizen of the world hates ill-will and hates it in all its forms and promotes good-will and good cheer among his fellowmen, he reacts sternly against those that destroy humanity's beneficent work everywhere. To him the capacity for building a country, like honestly building a name, is the most sacred attribute of a civilized person, and he will not tolerate the slightest malignment of his country's name, nor the destruction of what his country is building or has built.

He too must be well qualified to unmask his misguided brother in the hills whose information, however deficient and however perverse, enables him, I don't know in what way, purposeful way perhaps, to invest with political and social meaning his acts of rawest cruelty and barbarism, deluding himself into believing that he is an integral part of a marching world legion dedicated to rescuing humanity from poverty and injustice. He must have the character to denounce not to protect or defend those who exploit and abet with pious protestation of love of country the so-called "liberators" whose dangerous, or subversive ideas, more than bullets, are now causing the decimation of thousands of innocent, helpless people.

To be truly useful in an atmosphere of world understanding, the new world citizen must accordingly be not only wise but courageously responsive to civic demands if he is faithfully to interpret his duties and responsibilities during the present age.

The new citizen of the world is not a defeatist. He does not surrender to his personal frustrations. He rises from the debris of war determined to build anew what has been devastated, and never discourages the honest efforts of others whose new vision of a prosperous, stable national life he has no business to confuse or destroy in the midst of enthusiastic execution.

In short, the citizen of the world today is entirely a new man brought up in a new atmosphere, called upon to discharge new and broader duties. He has to fit himself to the new surrounding with a broader outlook, higher understanding, and greater responsibility. He has to have a sustaining faith in his people and in the capacities of human nature, in human intelligence, in the power of pooled and cooperative experience.

He must understand that while power politics is responsible for the present world struggle for supremacy, fundamentally the issue is which of the major contending forces can provide a way of life more conducive to the contentment and happiness of the great mass of human beings involved? He should ever remember, too, that, to achieve their fundamental objectives the democracies, ranged together, pool not only their resources, material, mental, and moral, but even their sovereignties in a spirit of cooperation; that on equal footing they could advance their common thoughts; that their common watchword is full development to secure freedom from want and freedom from the new slavery. He must realize that there can be no reward without quest, no produce without planting, no wages without work, no national security without individual sacrifice.

He must know too that our association and cooperation with the other democracies of the world are based not merely on racial or regional and spheric considerations but on a higher plane of international relations, ever mindful of our record never to surrender our distinct personality, much less our sovereignty and dignity as a people even if it merely involved slight supervision by a foreign power of our internal affairs.

This is the new type of citizen that the age demands of us to produce in this country. We have a wonderful material, inspiring material, promising material, before me this evening. The history of the development of the Filipino race shows that our people have known how to respond to the exigencies of every epoch. Doubtless in a new era such as this, we will again respond to its imperatives, breaking away the barriers of prejudice and suspicion that have made us unhappy in our relations with our chosen and tried friends. With such friends we may have grievances to settle, but they are grievances that time, devoted to honest negotiation and informed with a generous spirit of understanding born of identity of purpose and ideals, can gradually but surely resolve. The way, therefore, lies not in withdrawal but in joint responsibility and action.

There is the new challenge to world citizenship today. Citizenship in a democracy has a peculiar meaning, not only expressive of respect for individual rights and recognition of human dignity, but assertive of the greatest good for the greatest number—the essentials of a democratic existence.

The continued validity of that type of citizenship is being tested. It is being tested in our country; it is being tested in all democratic countries. The test is universal. We are thus included in the universal test for survival.

Members of the graduating classes and authorities of this great institution especially, you and I who have a joint obligation to posterity to survive that test, must learn the simple precept that national life requires continuous struggle to preserve it, and give it strength and honor; that freedom and independence are enjoyed not merely by professing them, but by building on them. In such hour as this, building by cooperation is the rule; isolation, the exception.

Thank you and good night.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). Commencement address of President Quirino at the Conferment upon him of the Degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(4), 1726.

Speech of President Quiriño before the NACTU National Convention

**Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the NACTU National Convention in Iloilo**

[Read by Secretary of Labor Jose Figueras, May 1, 1951]

Gentlemen of the Convention:

May first is a yearly reminder to me. On a day like this I take stock of what has been done for the Filipino workingman to give him a sense of security, stability, and faith. I know that on Labor Day I must commune with my fellow workers and fellow-builders not only to celebrate the day with them as the consummation of their ideals of democracy and justice but to re-examine their social concepts of freedom and industrial peace.

Labor Day is more than an ideal. It is an institution that will live through the years as long as there are men who believe in the dignity of the human person-and his indispensable role as a third force in the trilogy of modern society—Government, Capital, and Labor. Every year on May 1, the working masses cast away their political and religious creeds and join hands in glorifying their efforts to enhance their pursuit of happiness in wider latitudes of equal opportunities and free enterprise.

I am happy to greet you on this momentous occasion. I believe that the national security is better served if every man is assured of his rights to provide his family with decent comfort. I believe that labor, like any other element of society, is a potent factor in the shaping of our national destiny. It has always been, and it shall always be, the objective of all democratic institutions to provide the greatest good for the greatest number. That is why in our program of government, we have always respected the rights and prerogatives of the laborer as guaranteed for him by the Constitution. Peace, freedom, and democracy are indivisible. To maintain the peace in our time and within our own borders, it is proper that we recognize the fact that the Filipino workingman is a human being possessed of honor and of innate dignity.

In recognition of this fact, I have recently signed the Minimum Wage Law. That is a signal victory for our working masses. By that law, they are now adequately protected against unscrupulous landlords and employers who would impose starvation wages on their laborers. One of the purposes of this legislation is to develop in our country a strong middle class which will form a formidable bulwark of our economic prosperity. In my total economic mobilization program I have envisioned the growth of a sturdy and patriotic working class that will defy the onslaughts of an alien ideology, an ideology that is now being forced upon us and the rest of the world by the enemies of democracy.

I have faith in the good judgment and patriotism of our people. I know that against the excesses and impositions of totalitarianism, they will not hesitate to embrace the blessings of democracy. It is unfortunate that dissident elements, coaxed and coerced by Red agents, have resorted to the use of arms in an attempt to disrupt peace and order in our country. The sporadic assaults upon our peaceful citizens by the Huks have been now wittingly used by our critics to discredit this government not only here but before the eyes of the world.

The adverse effect of this smear campaign does not only diminish our prestige but also reflects on our capacity as a free people. This attitude of our detractors brings grist to the mill of communist propaganda, the main object of which is to create dissension within the rank and file of the working masses. This is the communist pattern—the disruption of the social order through the infusion of hate and discontent among the people.

Those who, wittingly and unwittingly, or for personal or political ends, allow themselves to become tools of the Kremlin, particularly at this precarious stage of our independent systems, are violating the Constitution. And yet

they have the temerity to invoke our Magna Carta to shield them in their murderous attacks and wanton depredations.

These criminal assaults upon society is a direct challenge to you, the working people, because it is your home, your families, perhaps your wives and daughters that the Huks prey upon and attack whenever they go on an orgy of looting and vandalism. The solution, therefore, to our problem of peace and order lies largely in your hands. The choice is between a social system that insures the peace and tranquility of your friends and an ideology that in the long run strips you of all that you hold dear, including your rights and freedom. I have no doubt of your choice, lovers of peace and of freedom as you all are.

The trade union movement in this country has already reached a stage where it can be relied upon to do its share in the task of national rehabilitation. This government has devoted itself to the social amelioration of the masses as a prerequisite to our national economic development and progress. We have adopted every conceivable measure to promote the plight of the common men and to elevate his status as a responsible member of the community.

The people's welfare is our main and daily concern. Our Constitution has guaranteed for them certain inalienable rights. Successful democracy springs from the proper protection of these rights.

Gentlemen of the Convention: Three years ago during the Labor Day rally at the Rizal Memorial Stadium in Manila, I made it clear that the concern of the Republic for the welfare of the workingman is made patent in our Constitution and that the rights guaranteed him may not be disregarded with impunity.

I have kept faith with that commitment. I have for the past three years taken every necessary step not only to improve the lot of labor but to strike a happy balance in its relationships with capital.

I said then, and I will say it again. "It is not the aim of this government to impose its will or to dictate the manner in which labor shall organize or its problems with capital shall be handled." The freedom of association is the birthright of the workingman, or any man for that matter. There must not be any encumbrances in his relations with his fellowmen, nay, in his pursuit of the good life.

The Filipino tradition of freedom dates back to the dawn of history, but its flowering in the hearts of our people has been fostered and won by the patriotism and candor of our working masses. One of the recognized schools of democracy today is the trade union movement. It has come to stay in the Philippines. But to make it healthy and strong, it must be guided by leaders who are unselfish and trustworthy.

Today let us pledge ourselves to the determination of moving forward towards national solidarity. Labor can lead the way. So can Capital. Sinister powers are challenging us in our effort to establish a lasting foundation for industrial peace. Men of evil designs have not only wormed their way into the labor ranks but have gone to the extent of inciting the poor and the ignorant barrio folks to acts of subversion.

Suffering makes a people great. We have suffered. We have fought and suffered for our right to be free from foreign domination, to be masters in our own country, and never to be tools of any foreign power. Let us keep that spirit, the spirit of all our heroes.

Self-imposed discipline and an equal measure of self-denial in order to promote the general welfare—that is what I ask of you now. We are in the process of vast development. Any attempt to retard it will endanger our national existence. Your government is busy encouraging new industries. This will mean more and better opportunities for employment.

Let us not be deceived by the promises of Utopia by the Messiahs of a so-called new faith. There can be no greater faith than the Christian idea that man, under God, is his own master. There is no greater democracy than that which assures for every man his right to self-development and self-expression.

Fellow-Workers: I regret that owing to a previous and similarly pressing engagement, I could not be with you today. However, I have asked your good friend and mine, Secretary of Labor Jose Figueras, to convey to you my message of goodwill and best wishes. May you continue to march forward with the other workers of the world in their search for universal and lasting peace.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Speech of His Excellency Elpidio Quiriño, President of the Philippines, before the NACTU National Convention in Iloilo, May 1, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(5), 2275-2278.

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino at the surrender of Sulu outlaws
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the surrender of Sulu outlaws at Jolo

[Released on May 21, 1951]

OURS IS THE PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT

IT IS time we thought of more pleasant and happy things in this period of our national life. For centuries and centuries past, we did nothing but fight the invaders or fight among ourselves. Innumerable people of other countries who invaded our territory were stoutly met on our shores which became crimson with their blood and with our own.

The three most important nations whose invasions we fought to repel were the Spaniards, the Americans, and lately the Japanese. The first two left our country not as enemies but as friends. Our continuous struggle with people, both Oriental and Occidental, who tried to encroach upon us as they came in successive waves, seems to have given us the habit of fighting so that when there were no more invaders in our country we had to fight among ourselves.

The Moros of Jolo have acquired the reputation of being the fiercest fighters among the Filipino people. I remember well when I was still in my tender years how my father used to recount to me his adventures in Jolo fighting the outlaws in your mountains during the Spanish occupation. I was simply entranced when he described to me how he escaped one day from a Moro attack. It was unbelievable how he escaped death when a Moro thrust his bayonet at him. I made a mistake; it was he who thrust his bayonet at the Moro who wanted to reach him with his kris. The Moro outlaw, instead of escaping from that bayonet thrust, got hold of it and pulled it to his body so that he could reach my father with his kris. I don't know how my father escaped but he lived to tell me that wonderful story.

From boyhood I have learned how to admire the bravery, the gallantry, and the determination of the Moro fighter. During those years of occupation by other nations, you showed and made patent that bravery. But now that we are free and independent, now that we are no longer fighting a foreign enemy on our soil in order to establish national tranquility, we should get together and pool our strength so that our people, especially the wage-earners, may be able to concentrate their minds on some constructive work and provide the wherewithal of their families.

The government established here is administering the affairs of the Moro people as well as of the Christians elsewhere. It is the same government that all of us are bound to defend, whose authority we all must acknowledge, and to whose rules and regulations we all must bow. It is your government established, not to subjugate any particular group of Filipinos, but to serve all groups and all our people. It is a government that would like to encourage and give every opportunity to all to earn their living and build their country into a strong nation so that we can continue enjoying the freedom that we now have. We have given opportunity to all groups of Filipinos in this country to have their voice in the government and participate in the exercise of its power.

My principal concern today is to prepare each province, each municipality, each *barrio*, and each *sitio* so that it can well feed, protect, and administer its affairs for the prosperity and happiness of every individual as well as of any other citizen in this country who aspires to make our country worthy of our own name.

Your brothers in the north and those in the center of this archipelago, and even in the greater portion of Mindanao, are now busily tilling the soil, cutting trees in the forests, converting waterfalls into hydroelectric power, and cultivating all beautiful plains and valleys of this vast country of ours in order to bring forth the wealth and treasure with which to maintain our government and enrich our people.

Even the Americans whom you used to fight during their occupation of this country have now been kind enough and liberal enough to show their interest in our welfare and future by giving us millions and millions of dollars with which to help us develop our land. And the object of my visit in the South today and in the Visayas tomorrow and

elsewhere the next day or in the future, is to see that every community contribute its efforts in making this nation richer, happier, and more contented. I came to Sulu to hear from you and to observe with my own eyes in what manner we can develop your province faster and more effectively. It is my understanding that a great portion of our rich soil in Sulu is now being abandoned because people are afraid to venture into those places and plant rice or cassava. Many of our people are afraid, afraid of you, my friends, who presented yourselves this morning. I really do not understand why you should go to the hills, hide behind the trees, and suffer in the mountain crevices and fastnesses when the government is not molesting you, when the government wishes nothing but your happiness and prosperity and your safety.

If you have any differences among yourselves, I want you to be frank and tell them to me as the head of this nation, as your chief executive, and as an adopted son of this province and datu of Jolo. Tell me how I can settle your differences and give me a chance to make you happy and contented again. (*Applause*)

I visited you today in a helpful spirit. Do not hesitate to open your hearts and your souls to me. I have many means with which we could solve your problems. I am not going to tolerate any further the use of gun, kris, kampilan, or any other weapon to settle your differences, because we need weapons only to protect our country from foreign invasion.

At this moment we have more than 1,300 Filipinos fighting on the plains of Korea, fighting for the liberty of other nations. We need every able-bodied individual, the brave population of this archipelago, to prepare themselves now for a great fight once the Communists, the enemies of our independence and our democracy, invade or try to invade our country in the future. I will see to it that those guns that you have turned over to General Duque be repaired for good use to meet our enemies from outside, not against you or any tribe or group of Filipinos in this country. (*Applause*)

I came here armed with another weapon to help you wage your life's struggles. Instead of your guns, your kampilan, and the other weapons that you delivered today, I would like to give you plows, tractors, and other implements that will move your soil and make it more productive so as to give you and your children sufficient food. (*Applause*) The rich soil of Sulu must be utilized for productive purposes and not for burial grounds for your own brothers or for yourselves. Your soil is so rich it does not need to be fertilized by human blood. (*Applause*)

I will go from province to province, from municipality to municipality, to find out how we can distribute those constructive weapons so that you can rise from your misery, poverty, or suffering. There are many places here which you can well exploit if you devote your time to constructive activities. I am going to Siasi, to Tawitawi, to Sitanki, and the Turtle Islands and back to Palawan. I will want to know how the national government and you yourselves can help in this enterprise — exploit fishing business better, cultivate the soil in neglected islands, and promote the development of that mine in the Turtle Islands where we are now digging turtle eggs with which to supply the great demand for them in our neighborhood.

I repeat, I came here in a helpful spirit. To those of you who have decided to present yourselves today in the hope that you will be unmolested and be given your freedom, I want to extend my congratulations because at long last you realize that it does not pay to be continuously hiding in the mountains waiting for your enemy who is no other than your own brother. I congratulate you for your timely awakening because right now we need your brawn, your brain, your muscles, your experience to make of the soil of Mindanao and Sulu, especially Sulu, the depository of wealth. You await the normal procedure in court. We will take care that nobody will hurt you, that you will be under the protective custody of the government. If the court proceedings acquit you, immediately you go back home. If the court convicts you or you plead guilty and the court's decision becomes final, I will see to it that you are given parole so that you can go home. Keep this clear in mind: I am not giving you amnesty right now, because amnesty requires the concurrence of Congress. I alone cannot give you amnesty but I alone can parole or pardon you, if the court convicts you.

In the meantime, I want you to communicate with your respective relatives and friends and tell them that the government is now taking care of your case so that you may be given freedom as soon as possible. Tell them not to be afraid to come to town, to the *poblacion*, to speak to public officials because such officials are their protectors. I

know that because of the misconduct of some members of the Armed Forces, you may have developed certain prejudices against the uniformed men of this government. But those are individual cases of officials who were not following the rules and the policy of the government. I want you to understand that the man dressed in the uniform of the Philippine Army is your protector, that he is your brother who will take care of you and help maintain peace and order in your home, and that he will let you go back to your home and make a living for your respective families. He is the one who drives away those who molest you, your enemies. He does not come to the vicinity to kill just for the lust for blood. He is my representative when he comes to your community, and because my ambition is to make you peaceful, productive citizens, you should respond to the new policy of the government, which is to make you happy and contented and not to languish in misery in the hills and mountain fastnesses and in the ravines.

My friends, I am very happy to see such a big crowd that met me this morning. Some people said I would not come here because I was afraid to present myself in Sulu or in Jolo. But why should I be afraid of Rasul? Why should I be afraid of Ombra? They are my eyes. I am going to help them make the people of Sulu get united. I came so that the people of Jolo may rise as one man in defense of your rights against a foreign invader, and not against your own enemies in the vicinity. Why should I be afraid to face you when you are my brothers, when your province adopted me as her son? And why should I be afraid of the people whom I love, especially their female population? Let us rise in one enthusiastic cheer for the unity, the understanding, and the love of the people of Sulu toward one another and toward the administration. (*Applause*)

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Speeches of President Quirino and British Minister Frank S. Gibbs on the occasion of the presentation of the credentials of the latter to the former, May 31, 1951

Speeches of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, and British Minister Frank S. Gibbs on the occasion of the presentation of the credentials of the latter to the former at Malacañan Palace, May 31, 1951:

THE BRITISH MINISTER'S SPEECH

Mr. President:

The King, my August Sovereign, whose Royal Letter accrediting me as His Majesty's Minister to the Republic of the Philippines I am about to present to you, has commanded me to convey to Your Excellency his friendly greetings and good wishes and to express His Majesty's earnest hope for the happiness and prosperity of the Philippines.

In accordance with the instructions which I have received from my Government, I shall make it my constant endeavour to maintain and strengthen the good relations which have so happily been established between His Majesty's Government and the Republic of the Philippines, in the firm belief that by so doing I shall be fulfilling my high duty. I feel sure, Mr. President, that for this purpose I may count upon full encouragement and help from yourself and the members of Your Excellency's administration.

I hope that the recent conclusion of a bi-lateral agreement between the Philippine Government and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom under the terms of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs will lead to a substantial increase in the trade between our two countries.

I beg to express to Your Excellency my most sincere and confident hope for the prosperity of the Philippines and its people.

THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

Mr. Minister:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you as His Britannic Majesty's Minister to the Philippines and to gratefully acknowledge His Majesty's friendly greetings and good wishes for my country and its people.

I am confident that your presence among us will further, strengthen the ties of friendship that bind our two peoples, a friendship which your able and distinguished predecessors have helped to establish and foster firmly and effectively. You can rest assured that my Government will exert every effort to collaborate with you in the attainment of this worthy end.

The Philippines enjoyed substantial trade with your country long before we attained sovereign statehood. Considering the mutual benefits and advantages that your people and mine have derived from this relationship, I am certain that this trade will substantially increase with the years.

I thank you, Mr. Minister, for your kind wishes for my country and people. Please convey to your August Sovereign my cordial greetings and sincere wishes for his continued health and happiness as well as for the prosperity of the British people.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Speeches of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, and British Minister Frank S. Gibbs on the occasion of the presentation of the credentials of the latter to the former at Malacañan Palace, May 31, 1951. (1951). *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(5), 2285-2286.

Speeches of President Quirino, and Monsignor Egidio Vagnozzi, Apostolic Nuncio to the Republic of the Philippines, on the occasion of the presentation of the credentials of the latter to the former, June 20, 1951

Speeches of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, and Monsignor Egidio Vagnozzi, Apostolic Nuncio to the Republic of the Philippines, on the occasion of the presentation of the credentials of the latter to the former, at Malacañan Palace, June 20, 1951:

THE SPEECH OF MSGR. EGIDIO VAGNOZZI

Your Excellency:

I have the honor to present to Your Excellency the letters, by which His Holiness Pope Pius XII has been pleased to accredit me as Apostolic Nuncio to the Republic of the Philippines

In accomplishing this solemn and historical event, I am overcome by mixed feelings: my unworthiness for this exalted and responsible position, and my happiness at being able to serve my Sovereign Pontiff and to promote the friendliest relations between the Holy See and the Philippine Government in this noble Christian Nation.

It is very significant that diplomatic relations have been established on the highest level, with the appointment of an Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines and of an Ambassador to the Holy See. On one hand this is a fit recognition of the position of the Holy See in international affairs, as well as of the fact that a large majority of the Filipino people see in the Roman Pontiff their Supreme Spiritual Father; on the other hand, it shows the importance which the Holy See attaches to the Republic of the Philippines.

As a free and independent nation, this country is still young. Like all things endowed with the gift of youth it is progressively growing in all its accomplishments, and gives a very rich promise of things to come.

In the almost two years I have been fortunate enough to spend in this country as Apostolic Delegate, I have been happy to witness this growth and progress, and may I again express to Your Excellency, on this solemn occasion my utmost confidence in the future of this archipelago. Knowing as I do the innate virtue of the Filipino people, their religious faith, their wonderful family traditions, their profound love for the freedom and independence of their country, I feel sure that, with the help of God, this young Republic will overcome its internal difficulties; difficulties, which, today, confront more or less all the nations of the world, great and small, old and young; and that it will also overcome the serious threats from abroad;

While in these times the principles and ideals of the democratic nations are threatened by the disruptive forces of atheistic materialism, I solemnly pledge to Your Excellency that the Catholic Church in the Philippines, following the mandate of its Shepherd, will make every possible effort and give its full cooperation in the defence and promotion of what is dearest to the hearts of the Filipino people; their freedom and independence.

On my part, I wish to rededicate myself, with all my energies and to the best of my ability, to the task of making the Catholic organization in this country an even more effective force for the progress and welfare of the Filipino people.

I am certain that in the accomplishment of my mission I will always be able to count on the sympathetic understanding and help of Your Excellency, and of your Government.

I wish to repeat, in this my first pronouncement as Apostolic Nuncio, the wish and the prayer of His Holiness the Pope, that Almighty God may bless Your Excellency's person and Your Excellency's leadership, the members and officials of your Government, as well as all the citizens of this noble republic.

THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

It gives me great pleasure to receive you as the first Papal Nuncio of His Holiness the Pope to the Philippines. By sending as a representative a highly qualified person possessed of noble ideals, rich background of many successful years of varied service for the Holy See and one who has already ministered to the spiritual needs of the Filipino people, His Holiness has demonstrated his warm affections for my country.

This event marks another significant milestone in the many centuries of close association between the Philippines and the Holy Church of Rome, an indication that my country has indeed gone a long way from that time, when nearly 400 years ago, the Philippines began its development as a Christian nation. This spiritual awakening of the Filipinos pushed them forward into the unique position of being the only Christian nation in the Far East, and while other Eastern peoples were still slumbering in colonial apathy, the Filipino people had already voiced their desire and readiness to be independent. Thus they eventually became the first nation among the colonial peoples of the East to gain freedom. We fully realize that this most precious possession of ours could not have been attained were it not for the fact that the Christian religion in a large measure prepared us to assume the responsibilities and duties of an independent nation. For that we shall be eternally grateful.

The responsibilities of statehood and the weakening of moral values as a result of enemy occupation pose very grave problems, but the Filipino people are supremely confident that they will surmount all obstacles for they derive spiritual strength from an abiding faith in Christian principles. Amidst therefore the present confusion of conflicting beliefs, the Philippines in its pursuit of the welfare and happiness of its people has a clear path to follow, to deal with all peoples fairly and honestly.

Your Excellency, you are not a stranger to us and I am sure that in your new capacity as Papal Nuncio you will find the Philippine Government, its officials, and the Filipino people most cooperative in making your stay in this country both pleasant and successful in strengthening the close ties which bind the Filipinos to the Holy See. You have my assurance that every assistance will be available to you in the interest of understanding and harmony between our two states.

Please convey my thanks to His Holiness, Pius XII, for his solicitude for the Philippines and the Filipino people and their best wishes as well as mine for His continued good health and happiness.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Speeches of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, and Monsignor Egidio Vagnozzi, Apostolic Nuncio to the Republic of the Philippines, on the occasion of the presentation of the credentials of the latter to the former, at Malacañan Palace, June 20, 1951. (1951). *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(6), 2846-2848.

Address of President Quirino on the occasion of the Fifth Anniversary of the Independence of the Philippines
Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the occasion the Fifth Anniversary of the Independence of the Philippines

[Delivered at the New Luneta, Manila on July 4, 1951]

Beloved Countrymen and Friends:

This is an entirely new afternoon of our Glorious Day as a nation. As we watched in proud review the massive power of the twin basic supports of the nation—the soldier and the worker—a sense of security crept into our being. We have been made to feel that there is added strength in our sinews. And our hearts beat to one rhythm of faith.

In this beautiful spot symbolic of our new endeavors, overlooking the hallowed grounds made rich with the holiest memories of heroic deeds and noble acts of freedom, something enchants our soul. Undoubtedly our happy attendance here affirms the validity and vigor of the Republic we established five years ago, and the free institutions that give it substance and force.

We can now tell the world that in the first five years of its life, our Republic has successfully stood the doubts of bystanders and the untruths of its enemies. And the reason lies in the intrinsic integrity of the nation. This integrity has been in many instances misrepresented, but we have shown its indestructibility because it has been built of ample and devoted investment in blood, tears, and treasure of all our generations past.

It is curious that we have been able to testify to the vigor of our Republic close on the heels of recent dogmatic predictions of its rapid deterioration and early collapse. Instead of discouraging us, those dire predictions exercised a potent effect in reinforcing our people's determination to prove the contrary. It simply reveals one peculiarity of our people, that we do not discover our latent reserves of strength and staying power until we are faced with the challenge to survive.

Day by day, we now realize that there is no special virtue in survival for its own sake. Thus, we do not struggle just to survive; we seek to survive for the opportunity to remain free—free to fulfill our genius as individuals and as a people.

And the fact that we have survived so far makes it pertinent to affirm anew why we should continue to want to do so. An anniversary like this today therefore calls for a fresh statement of our long run outlook.

We aspire to live not for this age alone, nor by ourselves alone. If we are to retain the freedom that we value and for which we want to survive, we must continually commit ourselves in daily thought and action to the duty maintaining the healthy exercise of our civil rights and liberties of upholding the dignity and worth of the human person of restoring the full sense of community life among individuals, among neighbors, and among nations.

Fortunately, our Republic has won a respected place however modest in the family of nations. It is known always to have responded to its commitments as a responsible member. Because of its sense of community, it has identified its voice with every argument for self-determination- of small peoples, for resistance to aggression, for broad human rights. Knowing that there can be no halfway house between slavery and freedom, it has ranged itself on the side of the free world and is contributing its share of the sacrifice to keep it free. This is why our boys are fighting in Korea.

We have no pretensions to impose on our neighbors by claiming any special wisdom. We tell no one how to run his own house; we just see to our own, set it in order, and seek to show thereby the merits of our democratic system in which we hope to grow, developing our potentialities to the limit. We sponsor no hate drives. We organize no smear

campaigns. We have always endeavored to maintain the friendliest understanding and cooperation. We take the chance when we can to form a positive basis for increasing common counsel on problems easier to resolve by common action. This is why we invited our neighbors to the Baguio Conference of 1950.

In desiring to achieve peace for ourselves and with our neighbors, we are resolved to make our social order a direct expression of the peace in our spirit, which we distinguish from mere insensibility and consequent stagnation. This means a continuing effort, a continuing conflict even—but a conflict productive of creative change, of creative peace.

Destiny has thrown us into a special relation with the United States. We can say for today that that relation has had something to do, in addition to our own efforts, with the large measure of our recovery from the war, with the security of our freedom and stability of our democratic institutions. There can be no false pride about this fact, nor feeling of subserviency to a friend who unselfishly recognized our right to be free and stay free. America and the Philippines have a common objective which we now regard as a mission—to extend the borders of democracy everywhere.

In a shrunken and shrinking world, people have to get used to the fact, not so much of independence absolute and complete, as of inter-dependence and mutual assistance that nourishes human dignity and self-respect. And this is why we are a loyal and active member of the United Nations.

We have looked upon the battle of Korea as a struggle for peace, the peace of the world, and the peace of mankind. Our world community life can only be maintained in an atmosphere of universal tranquility; and as long as one group of nations disturbs that tranquility for any motive, economic, military, or ideological, our individual life as a nation will always be menaced.

We long for the day, the arrival of that moment, when once and for all, in the battlefields of Korea, the belligerents may come to an honest understanding—with the interests of peace safeguarded and the unification and liberation of the Korean people assured. We are, therefore, for the immediate cessation of hostilities and the honest settlement of the issues that have made our present world one of turmoil and senseless loss of life, property, and human values.

We want to live a life of substance so that we may be never a liability, but an asset to world prosperity and advancement. This is why we are engaged in total economic mobilization. Our initial efforts are bearing sufficient fruit to show we are on the right path in attacking poverty by organized production. The gradual conquest of poverty along with more equitable sharing of the fruits of production strikes at the root of social discontent.

Our efforts for the mobilization of our productive resources will continue to be planned, the state using its main strength to determine indirectly the broad level and conditions of economic activity and to make a success of projects clearly its own responsibility.

In striving to create plenty as a means to root out discontent, we are not merely providing our people with a life of substance and contentment and a guarantee to the preservation of our freedom. We are creating the condition of our country's growth and continuance. A high living standard is, of course, not enough. Man will want more than bread to live by.

The future of a free social order in this country depends on the kind of men it produces. Judging by recent events reflecting social convulsions, there can be no telling whether tyranny may not enter upon this Country. The only bar against it is a large breed of resolute men.

It is the greatest challenge and opportunity of our times to continue producing that large resolute breed, by whose consistent practice of democracy our sense of the value of the individual can be kept alive and strong by whose loyalty to it our relation to our kind can remain square and fruitful and rich.

We are determined that our citizens will not be deprived of their meaningful role in our social order. We are determined to democratize the benefits of our free institutions, lifting those below to the level of prosperous civilized life. Democracy being a process, not a conclusion, we accept our commitments to it as a continuing, endless experience. Thus our program of action is of long-range, requiring resolute men of vision to carry it to fulfillment.

Democracy has often been taken by its enemies as another name for division. Indeed, a frequent threat to democracy vision. We cannot deny that in our national life we have had and undoubtedly will have moments of disconcerting division.

But it is also the virtue of our order that such moments of division are more apparent than real, and that, in the perilous hour, it is the free consideration of a generous diversity of outlook that best prepares us for decision and united action. We have shown our maturity in this regard.

Wherever democracy is a fighting creed, such diversity of outlook anticipates its most historic resolutions and decisive victories.

And so it is a part of our commitment to democracy that we constantly practice patience and tolerance with its seemingly slow processes arising from differences of opinion, conflicts of individual aspirations, clashes of personal or group motivations.

We want to establish that our unity as a people loyal to democracy and freedom will not be impaired by those diversities and differences. They may seem to obstruct quick action, but in effect they allow a wide margin for a just decision that can command the most ample adherence. What is essential is national discipline, the enlightened obedience to the will of the greater number in contrast to the will of a self-elected few.

We have just witnessed a show of the armed might of our young Republic. Disciplined and devoted to democracy, these men are gallantly doing their part in our nation-building. They have a leadership today that has strengthened the trust and security of our people. They are building upon a tradition of racial heroism whose loyalty to liberty is finding fresh affirmation wherever it is in extreme peril.

We are proud of their predecessors. We are equally proud of them who now are holding up the standard. Peace is not easily to be restored to our countryside. But it is on the way—because we have these men. Aside from talking the language of force, as best understood by aggressive subverters, they bear a positive mission of peace and production now being fulfilled in new settlements for the landless on our virgin plains.

Certainly, the local atmosphere has cleared because of the efforts of these men. You can now call them your real protectors and defenders. Agriculture, industry, and commerce are receiving the proper incentives because a sense of security pervades the national atmosphere. This condition has even enhanced our credit abroad.

Of course, we can not attribute to them exclusively the arrival of this new era. No one individual or any particular group of individuals can claim that our nation's recovery and progress since independence are their special work. But they have helped prepare the ground for our national achievement. This is the achievement of our people as a whole by reason, and irrespective of the diversities of outlook and approach which must of necessity be peculiar to a democracy like ours.

What we have heretofore accomplished is the manifestation of that national instinct which has incessantly prodded our people to face dangers, to rebuild our country every time that an invader destroys it, to rise every time we fall, to feel stronger every time we rise, never discouraged, never dismayed, never despairing of anything. There is an Unseen Hand that subtly guides and directs our national conscience in moments of peril and adversity. We only need to appeal to It in all fervor and sincerity so that It may touch and raise our long-suffering people with Its magic wand. That is the secret of our national strength; that is the virtue of Filipino genius; and that is our hope for continued national existence.

Our prayer today must be that we keep up that spirit and the good work. We can do that because we have a Republic that has a living faith in its right to live free and untrammled. Like the kingdom of God, that faith and democracy lie in our hearts.

My beloved countrymen, again I beseech you: give me your hands that mine may be kept steady.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). Address of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, on the occasion of the celebration of the Fifth Anniversary of the Independence of the Philippines, on July 4, 1951, at the New Luneta, Manila. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(7), 3404-3408.

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino in a luncheon given by him in Honor of Governor Thomas Dewey of New York Extemporaneous Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
In a luncheon given by him in Honor of Governor Thomas Dewey of New York

[Delivered in Malacañan, July 19, 1951]

PRESIDENT QUIRINO'S EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECH

Fifty years ago a Commodore Dewey came here. Today it is our pleasure to welcome a new Dewey. He finds a new atmosphere, a new mood, an independent country.

When Admiral Dewey entered Manila Bay, the people of the Philippines didn't know what his purpose was. He was given no specific instructions on what to do after destroying the Spanish fleet. But as a result of his coming, the Philippines was placed under the tutelage of the United States.

Admiral Dewey became a controversial figure in our history up to July 4, 1946. Some thought he was merely an instrument of American imperialists, while others thought he was a representative of democracy, and came to Manila to help us win our freedom. All doubts were dispelled on July 4, 1946, when America gave us our independence.

Fifty years after that first visit, and five years after Philippine independence, another Dewey comes, presumably also without any specific instructions from his government and even disclaims any official representation in his visit in the Philippines but the same instinct which was manifested by Admiral Dewey's visit when he came to the Philippines gives us the assurance that he also embodies our hope of perpetuating our personality as a nation under a democratic system.

Governor Dewey may not want to commit himself. He has not so far revealed the purpose of his visit. I know he didn't come all this distance just for his health. As a student of world history, I know he is jotting down the most notable facts and circumstances that he observes here which may be useful to his government and people to help enhance the name and prestige of the United States.

Well, I am glad that Governor Dewey reached our country and the other countries of Southeast Asia so that he may have a composite picture of the true situation of the group of nations around us and we appreciate his visit. I hope that he will look at us with glasses of different color, that he may even magnify what he sees if possible so that he will be able to transmit clearly to America how we feel and how we react. It is my hope that Governor Dewey's visit to the Philippines will bear the same beneficial results as that of Admiral Dewey.

May I say to Governor Dewey that first and foremost it is our security which is in the balance today. It is no longer independence or our personality as a nation that worries us. It is our security that I hope we can impress on Governor Dewey as our main concern so that when he returns to the United States he can stress to his countrymen that Philippine security must be given America's preferential consideration. We in the Philippines initiated the idea of a Pacific Pact in 1949. We want that idea carried out now. We hope he can help us when he returns to America. The Philippines must be the anchor of such a Pacific security pact.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). President Quirino's Extemporaneous Speech. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(7), 3411-3412.

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino before the Provincial Governors and City Mayors' Convention

Extemporaneous Speech of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines Before the Provincial Governors and City Mayors' Convention

[Delivered on July 31, 1951]

I have asked you to come today for a conference which we may extend another day or two to consider in general terms serious problems affecting the security of the state and the stability of the nation.

We are approaching the date when we are supposed to submit our final stand on the Japanese peace treaty the draft of which was submitted to us more than two or three weeks ago and which has been the subject of general discussion here and abroad.

Although there is an understanding between the major parties in the Philippines that our foreign policy should be bipartisan, that no party should take advantage of the other in the presentation of the issues or solutions offered, of late, however, we have noticed a deviation from this attitude.

This being a pre-electoral period, our foreign policy and our stand on the Japanese treaty may become a partisan issue contrary to our fundamental understanding of a bipartisan attitude on foreign affairs. Already in the United States, we are hearing reports that several prominent American citizens and officials are giving the impression to the people of America as well as here, that our attitude on the Japanese peace treaty is nothing but a political stunt and that the leaders of this country are playing the electorate.

The Philippine Congress and the Cabinet and the Council of State—the supreme advisory bodies of the Government—have already gone on record as unequivocally against the treaty. This stand is unanimous and decisive.

It remains, however, for the people of this country and the United States as well as the rest of the world whose interests are affected by the Japanese treaty to know what our local executives—the governors, the city mayors, and even the municipal and other officials of our different political subdivisions—have to say on this matter, especially because it involves the question of security, not only of the local security of the state, but also the international security of our country.

Heretofore, provincial boards and city councils as well as municipal boards have been approving resolutions endorsing the attitude of the central government and its leaders regarding our stand on the Japanese peace treaty. But all these expressions and attitudes taken by the local public officials are merely desultory.

There is need for an unmistakable, a solid and strong stand in support of the attitude we have heretofore taken on the Japanese treaty. It is necessary that we present a solid front.

The issue is no longer a partisan or merely a political one. It is a national issue on which this country must express its stand unequivocally, solidly, and determinedly.

This is the reason why I called you for conference and consultation so that all members of the body politic from the smallest political unit to the highest hierarchy of our Government may define their solid stand.

The people of America as well as the people of Japan specially must know that we are not presenting our claim capriciously, that we have studied our position thoroughly. The economic provisions of the treaty are well

understood by us. We know the economic position of Japan, its potentialities, and its capacity to meet its obligations now or in the future.

We honestly press our claims because of our personal knowledge of the damages wrought by Japan on our country. The main thing for us therefore is, to present a united front, determined to push through our claims, not because we want our "pound of flesh" from Japan, but because we know it is the moral duty of Japan to pay reparations for the wrong that she committed upon this country.

We may not be able to collect materially or financially, or even in kind, all the amount that we expect Japan to pay to us. But certainly, there must be a recognition of our right to collect from Japan that will serve as a moral deterrent should Japan have any aggressive design again on this country.

We must crystallize our stand and put it in black and white and present it before August 13, the last day, I think, set for the final presentation of the draft. We must, without loss of time, express ourselves in a manner that the United States Government and all the prospective signatories may consider as our unequivocal position.

I also want our local executives to express their views, or their support on the issue of the security of the Philippines. I think you will remember that as early as March of 1949, when the Atlantic Pact was being considered and was about to be put into final form, I did announce that a similar pact should be adopted for our protection in the Pacific. I launched the idea not only in press statements but also in speeches, including my address before the U. S. Senate when I was invited to the United States in August, 1949.

I have expressed my desire that in the South Pacific, a similar pact should be adopted with the backing of the United States. While that proposal was not met with enthusiasm at "the time by the State Department in Washington, I knew, I could observe, and I could feel when I was in the United States in August, 1949, that the American people, especially the leaders of the American people in the Senate, were convinced of the wisdom and necessity of adopting the measure for the protection of the Pacific countries menaced by Communism.

The observation then of Secretary Dean Acheson was, that the proposal was made prematurely, but I knew with my personal contact with the people in the United States and their leaders that someday in the near future, America would be convinced of the necessity of such a pact.

I am very happy to have received confirmation of the wisdom of that suggestion in recent months. Although the United States was only expected at that time to give its moral backing to any pact that we organized for the protection of this region, the United States now comes out offering to be signatory to that pact with such countries as Australia and New Zealand, and with the Philippines if we want to.

At the beginning, I thought that to place the Philippines under an obligation to the United States for our own protection by entering into a mutual defense pact with the United States, may mean the conversion of this country to a protectorate. As I view the question now from the point of view of national security, it is not only the United States that desires to join us in the pact but also other countries.

So, I propose that you express in a resolution your opinion as executives of the political subdivisions of this country, giving your unqualified support and endorsement of such a pact for our own security, not only during these troubled days but especially in the future.

I suggest that you adopt a resolution indorsing our definite stand against the Japanese treaty provisions regarding reparations which do not satisfy our status as sovereign and free people; and also an unequivocal stand on the security of the Philippines to be guaranteed in the Pacific pact which may be entered into in the future.

My friends, I think it is time that we tell our people today and henceforth that if we are going to continue to remain a nation, a sovereign government, an independent democracy, we must all pull together and show to the world that there is one and only one Filipino people, determined to defend its national existence.

I am saying this because in the coming elections, there will be heated discussions, each one claiming credit for accomplishments achieved by the country.

At times such as this, we are up to forget our national responsibilities and deny to our nation the credit for the achievements that we have so far been able to accomplish during the last few years.

The country is now developing into a prosperous one. It is not because the administration has done that, or this department has done it.

I do not claim, for example, to have increased rice production alone; I do not claim to have increased the hemp production alone; I do not claim to have increased our international commerce alone; and I do not claim to have maintained peace and order and restored tranquility of the country alone. But I do say that our people and their representatives have secured the proper atmosphere so that we can plant our staple crops, enhance international commerce, and maintain relative tranquility in our country.

I have not planted a single stalk of rice, I have not planted a single plant of hemp, and I have not invested a single centavo at all. I have not even held a knife and gone to the field to fight the Huks. I have not shed a single drop of blood. But I do say that you and I in the administration, Liberals or Nacionalistas or any other party members who have cooperated to secure the proper atmosphere so that our people could grow rice, expand our commerce, and maintain peace and order, have made possible this progress.

The whole world looks upon us now as a people—not as Nacionalistas or as Liberals. The whole world is analyzing how we have been able to lift ourselves from the morass of economic depression and turbulent political situations. The credit for these achievements belongs to the people. The credit belongs to the country.

From now on, I would like to discourage any talk on our part, we the responsible officials of the Government, attributing to a single, individual action, anything that has contributed to our stability and growth as a nation. This is all our work. We have all cooperated in this. Our people must be given credit for our accomplishment and no one individual, no department, no group, should boast of having done this or that.

Now, my friends, I have here a resolution which I wish you to consider. This conference of governors and city mayors, if it wants to prove its effective intervention, especially at this moment, in the shaping of our national policies, has an opportunity to do so, as regards the Japanese peace treaty and the Pacific security pact. I turn this over to you and I would like you to discuss the matter thoroughly.

I wish that you would convert your conference into a seminar. I want to give an opportunity to all the members of the executive departments, the leaders of Congress, and other departments of the Government, to give a correct appraisal and estimation of the work we have accomplished so far. And let us make this a lively topic of discussion with our people. I believe that in these political campaigns now taking place, the discussion of the vital problems of the country confronting us, will be more pressing if you, the leaders of the provinces and cities, were to take your assigned places in indoctrinating our people on the development of the affairs of the state, laying aside the minor personal issues which have frequently become heated topics of discussion in political meetings, especially in the provinces.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). Extemporaneous speech of President Elpidio Quirino before the Provincial Governors and City Mayors' Convention, July 31, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(7), 3414-3418.

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino before the 10th and 20th BCT's, June 18, 1951

**Extemporaneous Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the 10th and 20th BCT's**

[Delivered on June 18, 1951]

HUGE TASKS AHEAD¹

I REGRET that I was not able to go and meet the members of the Tenth BCT when you returned in triumph to your native land the other day. I would gladly have rushed to greet you because you deserve all the honor, all the distinction, and the deep gratitude of your people for your accomplishments across the seas.

This afternoon, I am taking the opportunity to welcome you back to our shores and at the same time to bid God-speed to those who will soon leave to replace you in the battlefields of Korea. All of us who have remained here have watched your conduct in the battlefields and in your own quarters. We have observed with great pride the way you have comported yourselves. You certainly have added to the name and prestige of the country which sent you to Korea to fight for freedom and democracy.

Korea is a very small country compared to the big nations involved in the current conflict, but the issues that have to be fought in the battlefields of Korea are tremendously important. In fact, the outcome of the conflict will mean either that the world will have permanent peace or permanent enslavement of mankind.

Your contribution to this great conflict is no less important because you came from a small country. The efforts you have exerted, the bravery and heroism you have displayed before the enemy, and the exemplary conduct you have shown in your quarters all redound to the honor of and respect for your country. I am very proud of your accomplishments. Your country is very happy to know that you have been able to return with stories of glory when, side by side with the other forces of the world, you fought gallantly for freedom and democracy. Your country will be eternally grateful to you for your having brought a new name and fame to the Philippines. This would not have been possible had you not determined to achieve the role that was expected of you. In that you have surpassed our expectations.

When you left the Philippines, I took occasion to give you a few words of parting at Camp Murphy. I did not realize then how great and far-reaching our participation in the conflict would be. We thought we were just complying with our routine duty as a member of the United Nations, to which we have pledged our support and contribution to pursue the war against totalitarianism and communism. We never thought that each drop of blood that you shed on the battlefield of Korea would some day be left to your posterity and your country as a heritage, as an eloquent testimony to your courage and your noble mission to fight for liberty and justice not only for your country but also for the world. You certainly did more than we expected. And when you returned in triumph to see and be once more with your mothers and fathers, your sisters and brothers, and your sweethearts, with that air of satisfaction and glory in your face, you raised the prestige of your country.

Everybody cheered with you, everybody was satisfied with you, everybody was happy with you, and all felt grateful to you. Some day, history will write that the boys of the Tenth have not only done something for our country but a great deal for the world. That legacy will have to be preserved. You have shown to us that you went to Korea in fulfillment of a new mission — the mission which this Republic has pledged to accomplish and through the Tenth has nobly accomplished. When our liberty for the first time was granted on July 4, 1946, people never expected that some day we would cross the seas and contribute to the preservation of liberty and freedom.

Soon your brothers in arms will leave our shores to replace you on the battlefields of Korea. Those who are leaving on the same mission must be imbued with the same love of country, love of liberty, and love of humanity. To the

legacy that your brothers have just brought to us from Korea, you who are about to go must add another saga worthy of our forebears, which will further increase the honor and dignity and the glory of our country. I know that your achievements will be as great as those who have preceded you on the battlefields. I have heard that each and every one of you is very eager, enthusiastic, and determined to fight not merely as paid soldiers of the country but as citizens of the world conscious of their mission.

That is our joint mission. If we do not participate in this tremendous issue in Korea; if we do not show determination to maintain peace and order in our vicinity; if we do not help our neighbors, our associates, and our allies across the seas in the preservation of justice and democracy, our shores will not be safe nor our homes either. As a small country, we need allies and friends who will cooperate with us in protecting our land so that we may continue to enjoy the privileges of a sovereign, independent, and democratic life.

So you are going to Korea to continue the good work that your brothers have started. I don't know how long the war will last; I don't know how many more men will have to be sent to the Korean battlefields to replenish those who may have returned or perished; but I do know that as long as we are a member of the United Nations, as long as we love democracy and freedom and are determined to preserve that freedom in our country, it is the duty of each and every Filipino citizen to contribute his bit so that the Philippines may continue to exist as a sovereign nation. The only way we can do this is to pool our efforts, our resources, our heroism, and our determination.

Those of you who will remain behind will have the same noble mission and the same opportunity to accomplish our task. While our brothers in Korea will be fighting an open enemy, here in our midst, we will be fighting the same enemy but clad differently, masquerading as a friend or brother and utilizing every means to subvert our institutions and poison our minds in an effort to enslave our people to a foreign power. We who are left behind are faced with greater difficulty because deep down in our hearts we hate to fight our own brothers, the brothers who have aligned themselves wittingly or unwittingly with our sworn enemy. Those who are in Korea can only injure, kill, annihilate, or destroy elements that are not from our own country, men who are not of our own flesh and blood. But you who are here have to face men of your own flesh and blood. But bitter though it be, we have to respond to the call of duty. We have to steel our nerves, we have to strengthen our souls so as to cope with enemies who are undermining the very foundations of our country and murdering innocent citizens.

When we see brothers fighting brothers on the same issue, the effect on our own conscience as a nation is such that we must stop as soon as possible this campaign of dissidence in our country, this organized effort to subvert your government, this inhuman activity of snuffing out innocent human lives in outlying districts — people who are defenseless, old men and old women and young children and patients in the hospitals. We must uproot this persistent evil as quickly as possible because we need stability and tranquillity in our country in order to continue and accelerate the great development of our land.

It is necessary to increase our momentum; it is necessary to show more determination by every means available so that we may be able to accomplish our task of building a strong, peaceful, happy, and enduring nation.

Your country is being stabilized. Thank God the dangerous months of our financial stringency, of our economic debacle, social unrest, and the very depressing economic atmosphere have passed. We must finish our task as early as possible.

Almost a year ago, I suspended the writ of *habeas corpus* in our desire to give no chance for those who are suspected or are actually engaged in the subversive movement to go back to the mountains and renew their bloody activities. I considered this step necessary because we must bring them to court properly and we cannot bring them to court in the short period provided by the present law. The suspension was a necessary measure to insure the safety and security of the state. I do not want to go down in history, however, as having curtailed for an indefinite period the enjoyment of the privilege of *habeas corpus*. I for one will not like my name to be linked with those who would deprive the people of their constitutional privileges. If I took that step, it was simply because I considered it absolutely necessary for the peace and security of the state.

I want you who are staying behind to cooperate to the utmost in the early accomplishment of our task of cleaning our country of subversive elements. I want you to do all in your power to restore as soon as possible the normal enjoyment of the privileges of *habeas corpus* and all other constitutional rights involved in our campaign against dissidents. I expect you to accomplish all this soon after the additional ten battalion combat teams have been completely organized and have gone throughout the country and spread themselves in strategic positions.

It devolves upon you, the armed forces of the Philippines, to end the campaign as quickly as possible. There are huge tasks ahead, tasks that this nation must do. We want our country to be developed; we want it to grow in strength, in wealth, and in happiness; we want our resources to be tapped. We want to give our children better opportunities for education and progress; we want to build schools, roads, and bridges for them so that they can go to school without trouble. We want our people to continue working in the fields unafraid.

We have many things to do. We have to build more schools, more factories, more hydroelectric plants, and more irrigation systems. We have to create new industries because as we grow in number we must have the means with which to maintain our increasing population.

We did not establish here a new government in the expectation of continuing to receive aid from outside no matter how close, how faithful, how loyal, and how kind it may be to us as the U. S. is. We do not want to be a liability to any nation, much less to the world. We want to rise and stand on our own feet. We want to paddle our own canoe, build our own nation, and provide ourselves with every means available to continue our independent and sovereign existence.

All this we must do. We have a huge program of development for our country which will enable it to provide all the needs of our people and yet we cannot make much headway at present even with the accelerated aid the U. S. is offering us under the ECA program and the offer extended to us by the Import and Export Bank for an additional capital investment with which to develop our country. With all the money that comes from outside, with all the technical assistance proffered, with all the help extended to us by our friends and allies, we cannot accomplish the huge task we have envisioned unless we fight free from the dangerous elements still decimating defenseless, innocent men, women, and children in our barrios and in isolated districts.

We are going to lose all these opportunities if we allow our misguided brothers to continue with their nefarious activities. It is therefore the supreme duty of every one of you who are staying behind and all of you who are leaving our shores to bring to a successful conclusion this campaign of the subversive elements so that we can restore here a regime of peace, happiness, justice, and stability.

My friends, I invite you all to ponder on what I have just said. Those of you who have returned and are to be given a furlough of about thirty days, when you go back home to your provinces or when you see your relatives and friends, tell everybody that you have made great sacrifices and risked your lives not only for them but for the world. If you were able to make that sacrifice for us, they too must make similar sacrifice for peace and order in their own vicinity. (*Applause*)

Give them the proper perspective and example of civic and public duty. You did not go to Korea as mercenary soldiers of an army that had to bribe the United States to give us more assistance for its continued existence. You went to Korea because we were all convinced, you and I, our country and people, that you had to fight for freedom and democracy because that is the only thing that would enable us to survive. (*Applause*)

When you are well rested and you return to public duty, continue telling your brothers in the army about the example, the glory that you have brought to us, and the satisfaction and gratitude of the people, and let them emulate your deeds. Those leaving in a few moments have the same privilege and opportunity. We expect no less of you. The heritage that these gentlemen have brought to us now lies in your hands. It is for you to keep it, enhance it, or destroy it. If you destroy it, the curse of your own country will be upon you. If you continue with the same bravery and the same heroism, assert the same conviction, the same love of country and of freedom and democracy, the Philippines will applaud you and will rise in the estimation of the world.

Remember that in this world today, a nation is not respected merely by the number of soldiers that it has in its standing army. Remember that a nation today is not respected merely because it has so many millions in its coffers. Remember that a nation today is not respected merely because it has large colonies or empire. A nation is respected by its moral value and leadership in the world. I want you to preserve that as far as the Philippines is concerned. Thank you very much.

Footnote:

¹ Extemporaneous speech before the 10th and 20th BCT's, June 18, 1951.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Speech of President Quirino before conferring the Rank of Commander-in-Chief of the Philippine Legion of Honor on Generalissimo Francisco Franco Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before conferring the Rank of Commander-in-Chief of the Philippine Legion of Honor on Generalissimo Francisco Franco

[Delivered at the Ritz Hotel in Madrid, October 7, 1951]

Before, we begin this modest banquet which I ask you to accept as an expression of my heartfelt gratitude for my having been the object of innumerable attentions and courtesies from the Spanish Government as well as from the Spanish people during my brief sojourn in Spain, especially in this enchanting city, I wish to make public acknowledgment of the warm and sincere affection shown me by an entire people, something I have not found in any other part of the world.

The long and thick rows of men and women who sallied forth to greet me everywhere with such fervent and spontaneous enthusiasm could come only from a people who love the Philippines, because I know that in entertaining and honoring me beyond measure Spain was but honoring and entertaining the Filipino people.

From His Excellency the Generalissimo to the humblest man in the street, all Spaniards have shown their fondness open and without reserve for the Philippines and the Filipino people. This has a symbolic meaning for me that is at once vital and patent.

My visit has therefore sealed the lasting friendship of our two, countries.

Once more we have contracted a spiritual and moral obligation. The Philippines from the crossroads of the Pacific, and Spain from this zone towards which the eyes of the world are turned today, will undertake a task that will weigh in the scale of international values because they will be two forces that will work in common to maintain universal peace and understanding.

Illustrious Leader: Allow me, as a proof of the respect, gratitude, and admiration of the Filipino people, to confer upon you in their name, a citation in recognition of your great personal merits as the august chief and representative of the Spanish nation.

CITATION

[Read by Ambassador Manuel V. Moran]

“Because of your genuine patriotism and unfaltering devotion to the cause of a closer spiritual and cultural union between your people and the Filipino people; because of your persevering work as Chief of State for the attainment of the stability of your nation in the midst of so many and so serious economic difficulties besetting the world; because of your constant efforts to guide your people’s thought towards a constructive nationalism and to dedicate your energies to the task of peace; because of your firm and untiring patronage of Spanish arts and letters which have again awakened among the Filipino people their interest in their old mother country with whom they are united by unbreakable ties of religion and human gratitude; because of your noble and unconditional adherence to the ideals of Christianity which have kept Spain as the standard of faith to inspire and guide faithful humanity towards the loftiest objectives of moral integrity; because of all these considerations and in testimony of the respect and esteem of the Philippine government and people, I hereby confer upon you the rank of Commander-in-Chief of the Philippine Legion of Honor.”

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). Speech of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines before conferring the Rank of Commander-in-Chief of the Philippine Legion of Honor on Generalissimo Francisco Franco at the dinner he gave at the Ritz Hotel in Madrid, on October 7, 1951, in honor of the Generalissimo. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(10), 5060-5061.

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino delivered upon his arrival at the Manila International Airport

Extemporaneous Speech of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines Upon his arrival

[Delivered at the Manila International Airport, October 11, 1951]

Mr. Toastmaster and Fellow Countrymen:

I think this is not an opportune moment for me to deliver a long speech. I shall simply say in a few words what I have been keeping in my bosom when I was approaching our shores and saw the great number of people congregated here at the airport this morning, in contrast to a smaller crowd when I left the country 45 days ago. This is an expression of a spontaneous recognition, and perhaps conviction, that after all, my trip was not in vain.

I left the country 45 days ago on a mission of peace and security. It is nice to be back home again with you after being away for so long a time which I did not expect to spend outside of our country. Those 45 crowded days seemed to me a period covering almost several epochs of our history. The realities that I observed are clearly pictured in my imagination. And as I drew the curtain against what I saw and upon reaching home as I raised another curtain to review perhaps! our immediate past and our present, I seem to see unfurled before me varied vistas that will take me time to describe. This and the significance of the events that I witnessed during those 45 days, I shall reserve for the pleasure of describing them in my next radio chat four days hence.

Suffice it to say, my fellow countrymen, that during this period of absence I took advantage of every opportunity to observe and study, and to promote the mutual interest and objective of our country and those of the other countries which I visited. In my trip to the United States, to Spain, and then to Italy, and even in my short stopovers at Pakistan and India yesterday and the other day, I am positive that I have been able to enhance our national prestige, to make closer friendship, and to meet new friends—thus enhancing our international perspective, broadening our horizon, and insuring for us a life more in consonance with the aspiration and interest of our friends here and abroad.

My dear friends: You all know what transpired in the United States during my stay there. Ostensibly, I just went to Washington to witness the signing of the mutual defense pact between our country and the United States, after which I went to the hospital at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, where I stayed fully two weeks, for medical treatment; and general physical examination.

I did not intend to cross the Atlantic. But when I went to New York to wait for the plane to pick me up on my return trip to Manila, I received an invitation from the Government of Spain to visit their country. Inasmuch as the doctors had recommended that I should take a long ocean trip, for I was pronounced to be weak from overwork and overweight and that I needed rest, I took advantage of the opportunity to return via Spain, taking a boat from New York to Cadiz, and thenceforth return to the Philippines.

I am very eager to join you again in this very critical period of our national history when the very existence of our country is in the balance, because of the respective issues upon which the present electoral campaign are being conducted. And I want to contribute in the enlightenment of these issues and in the choice of men to guide the destiny of this nation.

I was glad I had the opportunity to visit Spain. I think the people of Spain were as eager to see me as I was to see them and our former mother country. You have received reports of how I was received there, not as Elpidio Quirino but as head of this nation, I am proud to have enjoyed not only the hospitality, but the warmth and friendship, and the love and esteem of the Spanish people.

In Italy I was proud to have received the high consideration and respect accorded to me as head of this nation, an honor which has never been received by any other person from this country.

On my way home from Italy I touched India and Pakistan, continuing my work of promoting closer friendship and fostering 'the ties that join our country with these two countries. Although there was no official announcement of my arrival, I was received at the airports by the governments of these two nations, with their respective diplomatic corps.

My friends: I can well say, therefore, that with the accomplishments we have achieved in the United States in the signing of the mutual defense pact and our responsible role in the signing of the treaty of peace at San Francisco where we had another chance of furthering our contact with the different nations of the world, we have been able to obtain from that country closer understanding, encouragement, strength, and security.

From Spain, I can't say that I bring home not only the closer friendship, but also the renewal of our ties with Spain—more love, more esteem, and more sympathy; from Italy, higher respect and greater consideration; from Pakistan and India closer friendship than we have had with those two countries before.

I left, as I said, on a mission of peace and security, and I return home optimistic of our future and confident that our security in this part of the world, at least, has already been made patent in the signing at Washington of the Mutual Defense Pact with the United States.

There is one thing that I want to bring home regarding my observation in Spain. Spain has a great past but her rise in power had been harassed for the last few years by the vicissitudes and the difficulties that she had to go through. I have seen how this country has struggled hard to make its present and future stronger and greater than its great past, and yet she does not have the advantage we have nowadays. This fact convinces me that if we concentrate our efforts and pay attention to constructive work, our future will still be brighter than the great old countries—if we know how. I, therefore, came home with a great purpose—to urge you to give more vigor, more enthusiasm, and more concentration of our national attention in the building of our country. This is the only secret of our salvation today.

My *pasalubong*, therefore, to you, my friends, is for you to set aside defeatism, cast away that whining and moaning over our fate simply because you see something dark in these moments of conflict. If we wish to enhance the interest of our country, we must have more vigor and more enthusiasm in our work, more generosity among ourselves, and greater responsibility for our future. This is my *pasalubong* to you, and I hope each and everyone does his duty.

When I was in Toledo, I was inspired upon listening to a story about the conversation between General Mascardo who was then defending Alcazar against the Reds who had invaded Spain. It turned out that his son, a 14-year old, was held for ransom by the Reds. Because the Reds wanted Alcazar, which was being strongly defended by General Mascardo, to surrender immediately, they asked Mascardo's son to call up his father and advise him he was going to be killed if his father would not surrender Alcazar. The boy called his father and this was the dialogue:

"Father, I am held by the Reds. I am calling you up to tell you that if you do not surrender the fort they will kill me. I call you up to bid goodbye, because I know you have your duty there and I also have mine here."

The father answered, "All right, my son, let each one of us do his duty to which the boy replied, "Father, don't worry about me. You have a greater responsibility than I have. Do your duty and I will do mine. I would rather die than have you surrender Alcazar."

My friends: This conversation appealed so much to my heart, more so because at this moment when we are struggling hard for our national survival, there are still many among us who want to surrender to people who have not done anything for the benefit of this country and this government. Let us not surrender our country, as long as there are men of the type of this young fellow, the son of General Mascardo of Toledo.

Thank you very much.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). President Elpidio Quirino's extemporaneous speech delivered upon his arrival at the Manila International Airport, October 11, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(10), 5061-5064.

Thirty-sixth monthly radio chat of President Quirino

Thirty-sixth Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Broadcast from Vigan, October 15, 1951]

Beloved Countrymen:

I am most happy to be home again, sound in the safety of your bosom which, in my thoughts, I truly never left. I am grateful for your prayers and for Divine Providence whose mercy kept me sound and blesses all the time I was away.

I have returned to you greatly renewed in body and spirit, certainly strengthened to serve you better.

The course of my journey spanned two continents of the western world. The net result encompassed the strengthening of the basic foundations of our national security and the reassessment of the wellsprings of our lasting moral and spiritual heritage. What started out as a quest for the safety of our nation and the inspiration of our ideals happily branched out into a pilgrimage of friendship and goodwill that found fresh confirmation of the value which free men still cherish everywhere.

I can recall no experience more persuasive of the special position we enjoy today as a people. The mark of affection and respect with which we are regarded in the new world as well as in the old is something previously unheard of in the history of nations formerly bound together as subject and sovereign. This special position that we enjoy can serve as a lesson in east-west relations worthy of development and expansion. It can be a key to the unification of peoples and the eventual banishment of exploitation, hate, and insecurity and the establishment of the true spirit of brotherhood among mankind.

In my last monthly report to you relayed from Baltimore, I enlarged on four new agreements significant to the security of our country and to our own part of the globe. These are the Philippines-U. S. defense pact, the U. S.-Australia-New Zealand defense pact, the Japanese peace treaty and the U. S.-Japan security treaty. These were concluded in quick succession while I was in America.

It is worth repeating here that the conclusion of those treaties gave a tremendous moral lift to us and to the rest of the free world. Our defense pact with the United States relieved us of the fear of being attacked without the assurance of an adequate and effective defense. Along with the other treaties, this defense pact formed the beginning of a regional defense system that promises to become part of an interlocking global security arrangement.

In having our defense pact with the United States concluded ahead of the others, we were appropriately afforded opportunity to focus world attention on the urgency of a Pacific union which two years ago, when we first launched it, appeared impractical and premature. Expanding communist imperialism and aggression had sustained us, as it were, to bring the free world to a bold decision which found initial implementation in the four treaties I have mentioned.

With the question of our national security resolved and the solidarity of the free world reaffirmed and renewed, we now can press forward to resolve our domestic problems with greater freedom and vigor. We can continue the organized mobilization of our forces for peace, production, and justice.

I took leave, of America greatly reinforced in my conviction of her sincere concern for our people's safety and welfare. I return to you bringing with me from the American people a greater sense of security, the encouragement of a friendly nation, and the strength of a great ally.

I accepted the invitation to visit Spain for the exceptional opportunity to reciprocate her amply demonstrated goodwill to our country and people, and profit from the inspiration of her durable institutions which form an indestructible part of our own inheritance.

More than an eager visitor, anxious to meet a long-lost kin, I looked upon myself as a messenger of democracy. Steeped in the traditions that hark back to the spacious days of empire. Spain accorded me exceptional honor and distinction as representative of a free people. But after all the pomp and circumstance, what will remain forever impressed in my memory is the lavish affection for the Philippines that shone in the warm hospitality of the entire Spanish people. The humblest Filipino visitor today in Spain, without the privileges of office, will bear witness to this fact. Spain has taken us into her heart.

For political reasons, Spain until recently had been isolated from the democratic free world. She had been denied the assistance usually extended to countries striving to resist communism. Politically proscribed and economically harassed, the Spanish people have lost nothing of their dignity and fierce national pride, and have courageously exerted themselves. From their strictly limited resources, they have been able to undertake vast public improvements. They have built big housing projects for workers in Madrid. The new and imposing University City in the suburbs of the capital is a modern cultural center of which the people can justly be proud for its creative and vigorous leadership in the arts and sciences. In the different industries, the modern Spanish craftsmen retain the skill and cunning of ancient predecessors whose preserved works are still the wonder of the world.

The priceless art treasures and monuments of a great past have been scrupulously preserved. They sustain the ancient prestige of a people's genius and their modern dream of contributing anew to the service and salvation of the world.

Visitors to the Escorial, the centuries-old mountain retreat of Philip II, are impressed by the grandeur of the appointments intended for divine worship and the very modest quarters the king allowed to his own use. He was supposed to have lived by the rule: For God, a palace; for the king, a cottage. The devotion of Philip II was not so much royal as Spanish; and it is the same devotion which makes Spain today a spiritual citadel by herself against godlessness and communism. The country's strategic position gives physical validity to its stern and stubborn resistance, so that with or without the North Atlantic Pact, Spain is a mighty bulwark in Western Europe against the common menace.

For this alone, not to mention the claims of religion, blood, and language Spain must have a special place in our hearts as she has for us in hers. The two treaties that were signed with Spain when I was there, in addition to two existing ones; exemplify the grace of our growing mutual sympathy and common interest, and our enduring friendship. From Spain, therefore, I bring to you the strengthening of those ties of friendship and faith that are the imponderables in the abiding solidarity between our two countries.

The hospitality of the Italian government and the Vatican, following my Spanish visit, was something else again. It was intimately related to the happy role which our peculiar position in Asia has destined for us to play as a congenial link between East and West and between varying cultures and political outlooks. Italy today is a resurgent democracy and after my short visit in that great country I can report to you that we have the respect of the Italian people. From the Vatican we have the reassurance of the unity of a militant faith equal to the challenge of a godless ideology, and we have the blessings of the Holy Father.

I was happy to have passed through Pakistan and India, two sister countries, and however brief my stop-over in them, the open-hearted cordiality of their welcome was an earnest of the essential common interest that binds us with them and which has been uppermost in my thoughts since we called the Baguio Conference of 1950.

We cannot stint in the cultivation of their continued interest and cooperation. We cannot grudge the extension of our own efforts to make our nation a constructive and helpful participant in the common endeavor to preserve freedom, advance justice, and strengthen the peace in our midst as among all nations.

I know of no greater responsibility than this that does us exceptional honor. I believe we can measure up to it according as we achieve national discipline, moral rebirth, a fresh consecration to spiritual and material goals compatible with service to our people, to our neighbors, and to the rest of mankind.

Our quest for national security, our adherence to a way of life, and our loyalty to a faith, identify us with varied peoples constituting a widening circle of stability and protection for the values we prize.

And my last trip abroad afforded us a fresh demonstration of our growing national stature as a factor for good will, understanding, and peace.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Thirty-sixth monthly radio chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, broadcast from Vigan, October 15, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(10), 5064-5067.

**Address of President Quirino on United Nations Day Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On United Nations Day**

[Delivered on October 25, 1951]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I appreciate this opportunity to join you in exalting, and in focussing an appraising glance on, the United Nations.

This World Organization has definitely emerged from its chrysalis. In six years of growing pains, it has developed structure, stability, and stature of an extent to handle responsibilities crucial to world peace and welfare.

The United Nations was born out of mankind's deep need and desire for peace. That need and that desire have increased in direct proportion to the difficulties that have stood in the way of their attainment over the past six years. Today with the danger of atomic war easting its dreadful shadow all over the globe, the peoples of the world are turning more and more to the United Nations.

The observance of United Nations Day this year is an occasion for world-wide renewal of faith in the principles of the United Nations' Charter. Indeed there is need of a more vigorous and unequivocal expression of the determination of the member states to help achieve the purposes for which the United Nations was founded.

The past year has been a crucial one for the United Nations. In June, 1950 the organization proved itself by its historic decision to defend the Republic of Korea against aggression. But it was a decision made possible only by an exceptional circumstance: the absence of the [Soviet Union from the Security Council and the consequent temporary removal of its veto power. Normally, the Council's decision to repair the breach of peace in Korea by armed collective action should have been followed up by the rapid development of an international army under Article 43 of the Charter. However, the return of the Soviet Union (and its veto power) to the Council precluded any such development. As in the days before Korea, the Council was hamstrung and the free world found itself confronted with the problem of how to sustain the action in Korea, and to organize additional forces necessary to prevent future Koreas, within the framework of the United Nations.

This problem inspired two parallel developments of utmost importance in the evolution of an effective collective security system that would safeguard peace and ensure the rule of law throughout the world. First was the adoption by the General Assembly of a "Uniting-for-Peace" resolution which activates the Assembly's hitherto latent authority to act whenever the Security Council should be unable to discharge its primary responsibility to maintain or restore peace. Member states could now place units of their armed forces in the service of the United Nations. They could also take more effective part in preventing breaches of peace through the newly created Peace Observation Committee and the Collective Measures Committee.

The second development is the deliberate subordination to the United Nations of the regional defense arrangements which are being evolved by the free world. Both the North Atlantic Treaty organization, which is well on the way to completion, and the new security system now abuilding in Southeast Asia and the Pacific area signed to conform strictly to the Charter. They supplement rather than supplant the United Nations' structure of international security. Thus, they keep rearmament of the free world from becoming an end in itself and it to subserve a higher purpose, namely, that "armed force shall not be used save in the common interest" and only to maintain international peace and security for the promotion of social progress, greater freedom, and better living standards for all peoples.

It is to the everlasting credit of the United Nations that this higher goal has not been lost sight of even in the midst of the most intense preoccupation with the problem of defense and survival. For while it is unfortunately true that adequate power is an indispensable condition of our present security, our hope for a lasting peace must ultimately lie

in the elimination of conditions that breed wars among nations, like poverty, ignorance, discrimination, political domination and economic exploitation, suppression of essential liberties, denial of human rights, and gross inequalities in means and opportunities for advancement. It is a matter for rejoicing that the United Nations has carried forward its constructive work in social and economic fields despite formidable difficulties created by political conflicts among the Great Powers.

We cannot emphasize enough how much United Nations instrumentalities such as the ECOSOC, WHO, ILO, UNESCO, ECAFE, IRO, FAO, and UNICEF have brought members together to cooperate within their respective jurisdictions to produce results advancing their economic, cultural, and social life. The grateful results now being achieved in increasing measure will ultimately bind the nations more firmly than the fact of merely standing side by side as allies in an armed conflict.

The accomplishments of the United Nations through these agencies are at the moment not so widely understood and appreciated. But they assuredly will have more far reaching effect, for international conviviality and peace. Greater than mere military victory, they identify member nations closely with the common struggle to maintain lasting peace, friendship, and general human advancement.

In these fields, as well as in the sphere of security, the Asian region continues to be the principal proving ground of the United Nations. This world organization has done much to meet this challenge through the work of its specialized agencies, but developments of the past year indicate that a vastly greater effort, comparable to that which is now being undertaken in the field of collective security, will be required to accomplish the task.

We earnestly believe that peace, however desirable, is not an end in itself but only a means of making the world a better place to live in for all nations and all men.

We share this profound concern for peace with our neighboring states in Southeast Asia as we jointly expressed in a resolution adopted during the Baguio Conference of 1950. We in the Philippines have followed it up in the last Geneva session of the ECOSOC, where the Philippines, with the tacit cooperation of other Asian states on the council, strongly advocated even the establishment of an Economic Commission for Africa. We have no interests in that part of the world, but we took this position in line with our established policy of assisting the political, economic, and cultural development of non-self-governing peoples. No delegation was more surprised than that of the Philippines, however, when the proposal was lost through the abstention of certain states that withdrew their support under the pressure of highly developed metropolitan powers that understandably had no sympathy for the new economic commission.

But we are not discouraged. We truly believe that closely related to our collective security is the necessity of fostering the social and economic advancement of the so-called underdeveloped areas as essential to international peace. So we are determined to assume our responsibilities in this regard as a member both of a regional community and of the United Nations. We, therefore, invite our neighboring countries in Southeast Asia to do likewise in the honest conviction that to do otherwise, to stand aloof when interdependence among nations, big and small, is being more felt every day for survival, would be to precipitate disaster rather than avoid it. We must resolve to prevent the entrenchment in our midst of antidemocratic movements that capitalize on want and misery.

Both in social and economic development as well as in regional security, the countries of Southeast Asia should not stand apart for the sake of the common destiny. I believe we have rightly traced our mutual interests and affinity at Baguio in 1950. Our association in the United Nations has made those interests and affinity more firmly bound still. We must rise to meet the exigencies of the epoch. World peace requires our positive contribution. Our survival demands it.

We should not allow the statesmanship of Asia to drift into the back-waters of a do nothing neutralism lest our peoples become enslaved by a system far more oppressive and ruthless than any they have ever known. What we most need in Asia today are two things: a positive faith in the United Nations and its peace objectives and a program of positive action to back up that faith.

Both, the Filipino people have. We have cast our lot for freedom and democracy. We have not hesitated. We have refused to indulge in fence-riding. Just as in Bataan and Corregidor, when the highest values of human dignity and freedom were endangered in Korea, we went there with our bravest to show our positive faith in liberty and our love for peace. Since 1949, we have outlined and followed a program of positive action to support that faith. I reiterate it today. A Pacific security pact, which will include all the nations of Asia who believe in freedom and are ready to defend it no matter what the cost, is the crying need of the hour. What I said on the mighty rostrum of the U. S. Senate on August 14, 1949, I can repeat word for word and to the last comma with burning pertinency at this very hour.

“Today the most urgent problem that confronts the Philippines and the other free countries of Asia is the problem of security. It is, in fact, the principal problem that besets all those states that lie athwart the advancing tide of communism. The Philippines rejoices with the rest of the free world that there has at last been erected a mighty bulwark against the advance of Communism in Europe. That sector of the globe has been secured and the peace of the world; to that extent, has been stabilized.

“However, it is obvious to everyone that the task of securing our free world is only half done. No one who realizes the extent of the menace to which Asia is exposed—the threat to Korea, the infiltration into Viet Nam, the debacle in China—can well afford to rest at ease now that the North Atlantic Pact is in full force and effect. Asia with its vast population which accounts for more than half of the world, and with its incalculable resources, cannot and ought not to be lost to communism by default. And yet—this is bound to happen unless something of the courage and vision that went into the forging of the democratic defense in Europe is applied to the forging of a similar system of defense in Asia.”

*Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library***

Quirino, E. (1951). United Nations Day address of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, before the Rotary Club, Manila Hotel, on October 25, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(10), 5068-5072.

**Address of President Quirino on the 28th Foundation Day of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the 28th Foundation Day of the Boy
Scouts of the Philippines**

[Delivered on October 31, 1951]

Fellow Boy Scouts:

On this 28th Foundation Day of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, I share the joy of all members and all our people for an organization that helps us to be true Filipinos, true citizens of the world, and true members of the brotherhood of man.

The times in which we live are pretty difficult. Many of you may be old enough to recall we have just been through a world war. Millions of men were killed. The loss of homes and the means of life, not to speak of goodwill and faith, cannot be measured.

And now if men and the leaders of men do not take care, we may yet see another war. With the dreadful new weapons of war, nobody may live to tell a story. Nobody may survive to carry on with the virtues of loyalty, honesty, helpfulness, loving-kindness—such things which make boy scouts happy and life worth living.

We cannot want that misfortune to happen. No real boy scout can want it to happen. No people on earth can want it to happen.

Our elders today are bending every effort to leave with us a world that is not only safe but strong and free so that we can develop and use our talents for our own happiness and that of others.

In the meantime, we cannot just sit tight. We cannot just stand still. We cannot just wait for things to happen.

We can and must do something. That we are boy scouts is something. That we know boy scouts stand for self-reliance, for community consciousness, for neighborly cooperation is something still. That boy scouts go out of their way to give these civic virtues specific progression in their daily thought and action is of the greatest significance.

Addressing the scout leaders gathered at Malacañan on a previous occasion, I stressed the need of utilizing the hundreds of thousands of boy scouts in the Philippines, the greatest wealth of the nation, for production in their respective capacities in order to help supply the country's needs in food and agricultural and industrial materials.

But more than anything else, in this stage of world turmoil, we need a more effective, universal, and militant spiritual and moral education on friendship and goodwill, on love for others, on love for and loyalty to country. These positive qualities of character will do more than weapons of war to prevent war and to preserve peace and humanity itself.

All this counts for the building of a better social and world order from which to banish fear and want.

In the period of national peril which our country last survived, the boy scouts contributed from their ranks heroes whose loyalty to their country and their God, and whose discipline and sacrifice for Boy Scout principles and virtues, are today part of an invaluable inheritance essential to the building of that better order.

Selfishness, envy, and hate will destroy that order. Buoyancy and optimism will enhance it. Labor and determination will secure it.

I look upon our boy scouts as a continuing source of the type of manhood our country needs and the free world needs to advance human cooperation and brotherhood.

Those of us now actually shouldering the burden of developing our country and cooperating with the free world would feel helpless and hopeless indeed if we did not realize that such manhood is continually on the make.

To the ranks of our boyhood in the scout movement and to the leaders consecrated to its progress, I therefore say: Let us get on. Let us keep up the great work. Let us dedicate ourselves anew on this Foundation Anniversary. We have good and great traditions. The future for which we build will be better and greater still: We shall, I am confident, never want for encouragement, for support, from our people and government, from peoples and governments elsewhere.

All the past is merely a prelude to the future. Therefore, our nation's investment, the world's main investment, must remain in youth. The quality of its preparation will be decisive on the durability of what we build today. On this account, we should be proud to be a part of the boy scout movement and do all we can to nourish its growth.

*Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library***

Quirino, E. (1951). President Elpidio Quirino's address on the 28th Foundation Day of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Malacañan, October 31, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(10), 5072-5073.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Extemporaneous Address of President Quirino at the Free Election Rally

**Extemporaneous Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Free Election Rally**

[Delivered at the Rizal Memorial Stadium, November 5, 1951]

Mr. Toastmaster, My Dear Friends:

I wish to express my deep appreciation for the opportunity afforded me this afternoon to address this intelligent, non-partisan, and civic-minded group of citizens.

We have long felt the need of civic consultation on the manner in which the elections in the Philippines should be conducted. The development of our electoral system since we established our commonwealth government in 1935 has shown that our people, at the height of political or partisan conflicts, lose sight many a time of the important issues involved in the campaign.

For one thing, there is always that feeling of non-conformity, sometimes of hatred on the part of the defeated. For another, in the confusion and obfuscation among the participants, the political controversy in the national election tends to deteriorate into fantastic distortions.

All this has made our people believe that we cannot have any election in the Philippines without the threat of revolution. The national plebiscite on the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act in 1933 started it.

PERIODIC THREATS OF REVOLUTION

You will recall that in 1935 when President Quezon was a candidate for the Commonwealth presidency, there was a threat of revolution before and after the election. After the presidential election of 1946 there was another threat of the same nature. Again the country was threatened in 1949. That, I think, was the worst threat. Fortunately, the Batangas rebellion was aborted.

Yes, that feeling of hatred, of non-conformity and dissatisfaction of the parties has made it appear at home and abroad that this country cannot conduct any clean, honest, and orderly election without the threat of revolution.

The day has come for us, my friends, and you have ushered it in, when we must clarify the issues before any election and when we should weigh them soberly before we cast our vote. After the election we should imitate, say, England, which showed to us last week how elections should be conducted in a democratic way.

In England everybody went to the polls, as if automatically, to fulfill a national, sacred duty in silence. When the election was over, did anybody threaten to stage a revolution? Did anybody express any regret that he was defeated? Those who lost while in power went to the King and told him, "You have heard the people's mandate. Choose your new Prime Minister and let him constitute his cabinet to rule this country." What a beautiful example!

Being young, our Republic has to pass through many thorny stages in the civic expression of the popular will. However, it is not too young to learn. After five years of experience, faced with so many problems and so many

difficulties which we must resolve in order to fulfill our civic duty, we should be able to express our will at the polls on November 13 calmly in a peaceful and orderly manner.

There is imperative need of appealing to reason, to sober judgment, that God may guide us in casting our vote in fulfillment of our civic duty to the credit of our people and our race.

I congratulate most warmly the organizers of this huge rally for the opportunity given me and those who are with us for mutual consultation on what should be done at the electoral polls next week.

I was asked to come and state what measures have been taken by the government or its agencies concerned to avoid any act that may vitiate the popular will at the polls. I suggested that the members of the Electoral Commission, the members of the Cabinet, and all the officials who have anything to do with the elections and with the maintenance of peace and order and the education of our people, especially the youth, be invited here because elections nowadays mean not only the exercise of a popular civic duty but an education to our people as well.

The election anomalies alleged to have been committed in the past are attributable not only to one party. Since 1935, and even earlier, cases involving violations of the Election Law were committed by persons belonging to different parties.

If you will search the Philippine Reports and the records of Courts of First Instance, you will find that these cases concerned not only the Democrata party, the Nacionalista party, or the Liberal party, but all other parties. Each had complaints to make against the efforts of the opposing party to terrorize, threaten, intimidate, commit fraud, and violate the sanctity of the expression of the popular will.

I am not charging or accusing any particular party. But it is apparent that there is need of more education—education on character, education for proper evaluation of the men who offer themselves for public service, education on the civic virtues that must be imbibed and imparted to others.

The institutions gathered today, the civic-spirited citizens and the youth assembled here this afternoon, should therefore resolve and help indoctrinate and educate the less enlightened to practice these civic virtues and implement the necessary measures to insure an honest, orderly election, allowing everybody to cast his vote freely and wisely.

MEASURES FOR CLEAN ELECTION

What are the measures taken by this government in order to insure free, honest, and orderly elections?

The members of the Electoral Commission, who are here together with the officers of the national defense and the armed forces, and the officials of the departments having to do with the supervision and enforcement of the law on elections, will bear witness to the measures we have taken to insure honest and orderly expression of the popular will.

I shall first mention the act of the legislature calculated to achieve this purpose. There was some doubt as to whether in the past elections, particularly in the 1949 election, the people fully exercised their right to choose their candidates simply because there was block-voting. On my assurance of approval, the Congress passed an amendment to the Election Code abolishing block-voting and giving the two parties equal representation in the board of election inspectors, the administration thus renouncing its majority in the board which it had been enjoying since the previous elections.

We have also amended the Election Code so that we may have a new electoral census. Beginning this year, we will have a new list duly supervised, scrutinized, or corrected by the proper body conducting the elections. The Electoral Commission was also given more ample powers to make its supervision and control over the conduct of elections more effective and expeditious.

I shall not recite the different instructions issued by the Electoral Commission for the same purpose, for there are numerous instructions to election inspectors and poll clerks, deputy provincial and municipal treasurers, and all other agencies deputized by the Commission for the purpose of securing the purity of the elections.

The Department of National Defense needs no further instructions because all its members are doing their duties well and vigorously. They have impressed the people with their impartiality in the manner of approach or in the consideration of complaints they received in connection with the maintenance of peace and order in each locality.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines are well prepared to meet any emergency, even anticipating the scheme of calculating minds as well as those who are concocting macabre plans to defeat the popular will in the coming elections, the dissidents who would like to sabotage and defeat the purpose of a democratic election. We have captured documents showing such plans. There is one great disadvantage that we have at present: we have no control over the dissidents who are scheming to the last detail in the ravines and mountain fastnesses and wherever darkness induces men to do evil.

The Department of Justice has also been quick to respond to the demands for immediate and impartial judgment on election questions involving its jurisdiction.

So, all the three departments—the Electoral Commission, the Department of National Defense, and the Judiciary, to say nothing of the agencies of the Executive Department,—have coordinated their efforts with a view to presenting an integrated plan to cope with the situation during election day and during the counting of votes.

I have just heard from the Chairman of the Commission on Elections that the Liberal party and the Nacionalista party have been denouncing each other not only for irregularities committed in the appointment of election inspectors, but also on alleged terroristic campaign procedure.

This, then, is not a fight between two parties only. It is a three-cornered fight: between the two national parties, and against the dissident elements.

These, my friends, are the measures taken “by the government to insure a clean and honest election.

THE PRESERVATION OF DEMOCRACY

But what does a clean and honest election mean? It is the exercise of a civic duty designed to preserve our democracy.

What democracy are we preserving or protecting? This is one thing few stop to think about. We often misuse the term democracy without realizing that there are now two types of democracy: the democracy of the free world and the democracy behind the Iron Curtain. The democracy of the free world is the democracy we established here on July 4, 1946. That democracy is only five years old. Why are we protecting it? Why are we defending it? Why are we perpetuating it? We must know why. And why are we not protecting the other democracy? That, we must understand, too.

CONDITIONS AT BIRTH OF REPUBLIC

The Republic of the Philippines was inaugurated on the Luneta on July 4, 1946. I want you to recall the circumstances under which the Republic was born and ushered into the world. Before July 4, 1946, we were hardly able to reconstitute the Commonwealth Government because we had no money. The people were still bewildered. They did not know where to go. Some came to Manila to seek refuge; some, to other provinces outside their own to look for work. Others did not know where to go nor what to do, and just depended upon relief for the sustenance of their respective families.

Immediately after liberation, we barely had 18 million pesos to begin with. This was the remaining sum of the money we had in United States depositories. When we inaugurated the Republic we were not only hungry; we were also in tatters. We still depended much upon relief. Immediately after the war we practically begged alms, food, and clothing from the United States, which readily gave us surplus properties, even candies, cigarettes, chewing gum, and bread.

Those were the times when we needed much help, not only help from ourselves but help from outside. Under those circumstances, our Commonwealth Government was reconstituted. We could not collect more than ₱1,800,000 in taxes the first year. In the second year we collected a little more. Our collections continued to improve thereafter. From ₱1,800,000 in the first year our income has so increased that today it amounts to 500 million pesos.

That, my friends, gives you an idea of how we progressed since the first year of our Republic. But we wanted to rehabilitate our roads, our bridges, our hospitals, ports, school buildings, and other public buildings. We wanted to rehabilitate our industries and our agriculture. We wanted to return to the normal life that we had lived before the war and be happy once more. These could not be accomplished without money. Our taxes were not enough. And so we had to borrow from the United States.

President Roxas had to leave the country before he assumed office in order to secure help from the United States in the form of loans and technical assistance because our own local sources were still depleted. So every year we had to begin with deficits and these deficits were bound to grow. In 1950 our deficit for the year was 153 million pesos. But as of June, 1951, our deficit for the fiscal year was only ₱906,000.

RAPID RECONSTRUCTION

What have we done with our money? People thought that this administration, which is a continuation of the administration of President Roxas, had squandered the money. You are all witnesses of the great and rapid reconstruction we have accomplished.

You only have to see around you the great changes since 1945. Go to the provinces, to the farthest nook and corner of this our land and see the wonderful transformation from the day of liberation. Look at the countrysides, the farms, the factories, the new homes! How could we rehabilitate our farms and industries without spending and investing? What and how much money have we invested for the purpose?

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

In economic development, we have 200 million pesos authorized by the Central Bank charter to be distributed for the rehabilitation of different agricultural and industrial activities: Aside from that, we have invested all available funds in order to finance other specific projects, such as, for agricultural development: for fertilizer distribution alone, one million pesos; for irrigation pumps, another million; for abaca disease control, ₱500,000; for abaca loans through the RFC to rehabilitate existing industries, ₱4,500,000; for the Davao projects of the NAFCO, ₱1,843,000; for irrigation projects of the Bureau of Public Works, ₱11,000,000; for rice and corn projects, ₱15,000,000.

For power plant development: Lumot diversion project, ₱5,000,000; Ambuklao hydro-electric project, ₱44,677,000; Maria Cristina power and fertilizer plant, ₱19,000,000.

For industrial development: Ilocos textile project, ₱2,500,000; paper and pulp-making plant, ₱891,000; Manila Gas Corporation, which is going to be rehabilitated by the government, ₱660,000; Philippine Electrical Manufacturing Co., ₱375,000; steel rolling mill, ₱4,500,000; industrial loans of the RFC for rehabilitation of abaca and other industries, ₱35,000,000.

For transportation facilities: We bought three boats from Japan for ₱14,500,000 in order to initiate here a sorely needed merchant marine now operated by the De la Rama Steamship Co. but owned by the National Development Co.; for the Philippine Air Lines requirement for budgetary necessities and to keep at the same time the lines that

have given us international name and fame, ₱1, 50 0,000; for shipyard project at Mariveles, ₱18,500,000; and for other income-producing projects, ₱15,000,000.

On top of these, we have reconstructed our roads and bridges, public buildings, ports, wharves, walls, river and flood control, hospitals, puericulture centers,—permanent public improvements of all sorts, in greater number than even before the war. For all these we have spent ₱312,000,000. Only ₱90,000,000 was given us for help from the United States for these rehabilitation projects.

As a result of all these investments, the government finances accumulated a deficit of over ₱348,000,000 at the end of the fiscal year 1950. And at the end of 1951 fiscal year, we had a deficit of ₱906,000, or a total accumulated deficit of around ₱349 million.

I now ask you, are the people being soaked? Are they being required to pay more than what the law provides for this obligation? Has the government mortgaged your personal property so that additional burden is imposed in order to maintain this obligation and keep it on a running basis to enable us to pay each year?

What about the happiness, the contentment, and the opportunity given our people to live healthily and more worthily? What have we done? Have we not increased the salaries of teachers? Formerly the minimum salary was ₱30, now it is ₱140-₱150, depending on whether the teacher is a normal or a college graduate; normal, ₱140, and college, ₱150. We have increased the salaries of enlisted men from ₱14 to ₱50, plus better equipment and surroundings. We have standardized the nursing profession; improved the salaries of civil service employees. We have increased the wages of labor, fixing the minimum average at ₱4 for agricultural and industrial laborers. We have also provided for general retirement and insurance system governing all public servants.

It is not true that our national public debt is ₱1,300,000,000. The net indebtedness of the National Government is ₱593,000,000 payable within our own capacity and resources. We have been able to manage our credit much better than before the war and after we invited the United States to come and make a survey of our agricultural and industrial potentialities. We have been able to show that our country is rich enough to shoulder bigger obligations.

NEW INDUSTRIES

Are we going to be a miser and keep our money in the banks when our people need so much help and relief, to pay higher salaries, better wages, and provide greater opportunities to make a living, when we have to invest in agricultural and industrial projects and enhance each family's wherewithal? Do you know that 70 new industries capitalized at ₱39.3 million were registered from the establishment of the Republic to June, 1951? And that during the last three months alone, from July 1 to October 31, 1951, we registered 72 additional new industries capitalized at ₱25.4 million?

This means huge investments and these investments have come greatly from government assistance by way of loans. The banks have been given advance money by the government for rehabilitation; the insurance companies also; the building corporations, the same. And this is besides the building program of the government. Before the war we had only 439 low-salaried employees' houses. Today there are more than 3,000 new ones, and our goal at the end of July next year is 5,000. All this means money.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Deficit spending! Look at the United States. Are you afraid to see the United States fall into bankruptcy simply because of this? The United States is lending money everywhere. It has given money in loan or grant, equipment, military and technical assistance to almost all democratic countries of Europe, big or small, extending to Asia and our region, and made the whole world feel more economically and militarily secure. To do this it has incurred billions of dollars of deficit and indebtedness. Will the United States become bankrupt because of this? No, because the United States has sufficient resources and credit. It is promoting international business prosperity, and security because of them. We have made investments for agricultural and industrial development. But we, too, have the resources, the potentiality to back up our credit. We have given capital to banks that have financed many of these

development programs. So there is this interlocking of credit on the part of the banks and of the government that has partly increased the public debt of the National Government which is now ₱593 million.

OUR PRESTIGE ABROAD

But, my friends, our country, which has become the envy of the world in its rapidity at rehabilitation and reconstruction, is growing; it is progressing; we have to provide for its growth and security; we have to maintain its early-earned prestige and stature.

Don't believe that simply because I have to spend on my recent trip abroad I had delayed or thwarted that growth and security, or that I sacrificed the well-being and future of our people. While on the subject, let me digress for a moment.

How many trips have I made abroad since I have been in the government? I shall not include my trip in 1917 when I accompanied President Quezon in his mission to offer 25,000 men of our National Guard to serve in the European theater in the first world war, nor my trip in 1934 when President Quezon and I, as ranking members of the last independence mission, were able to secure the approval of the Tydings-McDuffie Law, in the drafting of which I took part. I shall refer only to my trips since 1947 when as Vice-President I travelled abroad.

When President Roxas and I took office in 1946, we knew that there were two things the country should have—internal security and the establishment of international relations. President Roxas decided that I should leave the country and make preparations for the necessary diplomatic

Relations.

It was necessary for him to remain because the internal situation was critical as the dissident elements at that time, allied with the party in power before us, decided to turn their guns against the government because of their defeat in 1946. They had many loose firearms distributed by the Americans in order to fight the Japanese, and when they decided to defy the government these firearms constituted powerful weapons against the duly constituted authorities. We were still weak and hungry and the people were apprehensive of the dark future of our government.

So President Roxas decided that his duty was to remain and take care of the internal situation and for me to leave for a survey of world situation, especially to familiarize myself with measures taken by the different countries in the effort at world readjustment.

As Secretary of Foreign Affairs I had the duty to prepare for the establishment of our foreign service. You know the story of that trip. I went to the United States. I went to England, France, Switzerland, Germany, and Sweden. I went to Holland. I went to Italy and then back, stopping at the capitals of some countries between Italy and the Philippines. The trip lasted 80 days.

It is true I could not bring tangible results at once; but I was able to sign treaties of friendship, one in France and the other in Italy. I could not wait for the signing of a similar treaty with Great Britain. I was able to confer with ranking officers of many of the chancelleries of Europe and with the heads of states I visited. That was my first visit. What was the net result? I succeeded in establishing: our initial diplomatic relations in Europe.

In 1949, I left for the United States. Why? President Truman invited me to visit his country. That was after General Chiang Kai-shek had paid us a visit. It was suspected that we talked of a military pact. Our political enemies today in the local scene criticized me for discussing military alignment with the countries of Southeast Asia. You know very well that since we established the Republic in 1946 our main concern has been the security of the state. At that time China was still Nationalist. There was no trouble yet in Korea. Japan was emasculated and there seemed to be no danger to the Philippines.

But many of us saw war brewing at a distance, trouble that was going to have its repercussions in the Philippines. The Communists were busy in Indo-China. They were busy in North Korea and in China proper. We were, afraid that some day we might again be the victims of aggression. So we entered into a pact with the United States, the military assistance pact, in order to insure the supply of technical men and military weapons and equipment, to strengthen our local defense system.

PACIFIC UNION

As we saw the war clouds thickening not far from our place, we deemed it necessary to organize ourselves in cooperation with our neighbors for the purpose of checking effectively the southward march of the Communists.

What did I do? I advocated the organization of a Pacific union and because of that I was suspected of being an agent of the United States. So I went to the United States with the commitment that I would not talk to President Truman about the Pacific union.

While I complied with my commitment, I had occasion to address the United States Senate before which I could not refrain from presenting our precarious position so that that great policy-making body might be apprised of our need for assistance and prevent our being gobbled up by a designing nation. It was then that I publicly advocated the Pacific pact. The proposal was not then entertained, but later, when developments in the neighboring countries, revealed the aggressive activity and effective campaign of the Communists; when China was already in their hands and! Korea was burning, America thought it best that these nations should be given all the military assistance they needed. So, I sowed a seed, and taking further advantage of that trip, I had occasion to press for more economic and, military assistance, including veterans hospital and other help to revitalize our campaign for peace and order. All these came later. The Veteran's Hospital costing over ₱18 million will be advertised for bid soon.

I went to the United States in 1950 for medical treatment. You already know my sad plight at the Johns Hopkins hospital when I submitted to a major operation which nearly cost my life.

President Quezon went to the United States not only once or twice or three times, during his incumbency as President of the Senate and as President of the Commonwealth Government. President Osmeña went there also, not once but twice for medical treatment. Why shouldn't President Quirino go, at least once, for a major operation, on the eve of his assumption of office, in order to be well prepared to assume his obligation to the people?

ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

But I didn't go, there for medical treatment alone. I took advantage of the opportunity to discuss our economic situation with President Truman. I told him, "I am sure that the American people are ready, willing, and determined to help the Philippines but there is some confusion regarding our economic position and potentialities. I would request that you send a group of men to the Philippines to make a general survey of our economic and industrial situation and see if they could assemble enough facts to serve as the basis of a program of economic development for the mutual benefit of the United States and the Philippines."

So he sent here the Bell Mission. And what did the Bell Mission do? It reported that the Philippines is a good risk for ₱250 million as help within a period of five years.

The Bell Mission has already been able to implement my understanding with Mr. Foster in November, 1950, by remitting more than \$1 million with which to initiate the execution of a program of economic development envisaged in our agreement. So, as a result of that trip, primarily for medical treatment only, I was able to bring home an economic program representing \$250 million; perhaps it will be more.

My trip this year ... I was invited to be present with President Truman at the signing in Washington of the pact of mutual defense with the United States. Of course, I had to follow up the old advocacy of a Pacific union: But I took advantage of the opportunity to discuss with President Truman not only the program of our external security but

other matters concerning our relations with the United States, towards securing the permanence of the democratic institutions founded here on July 4, 1946.

That was not all. I made myself available for consultation when the treaty with Japan was being discussed in San Francisco. And I want you to know that it was not only the question of reparations that we had to consider there. Of paramount importance with regard to the treaty of peace with Japan was the veritable unification of the democracies in an effort to more effectively ward off any danger that might come from behind the Iron Curtain.

COLLECTIVE SECURITY

My friends, that alone means our external security, because of the concurrence of the 48 states that joined us in signing the treaty of peace with Japan. The mutual defense pact we signed with the United States means that the United States will defend us in case of aggression, in the same manner that we will participate in the defense of the United States if and when she is invaded. The mutual security pact signed between the United States and Japan means practically the same thing as between these two countries. And this virtually amounts to a non-aggression pact between the Philippines and Japan. Japan cannot invade the Philippines without involving America because of the latter's mutual defense pact with us. So the two pacts serve as a moral deterrent to Japan. They remove once for all the so-called yellow peril which has been the concern and obsession of our country ever since we wanted to establish our own government.

MORE FRIENDS

So from that last trip I brought home to the Philippines external security for our country.

That was not all. I went to Spain. I went to Italy. I did not go there just for curiosity. I was invited by the heads of Spain and of Italy. During all my stay in both countries, I did not spend a single centavo of your money. I was an official guest of the Spanish government, I lived in the *El Par do* Palace of Generalissimo Franco and, even for those who were with me, my official entourage, their expenses were paid by the Spanish government.

And what did we get out of all that? We were able to renew, revitalize, perpetuate, and solidify our spiritual and cultural ties with Spain to the limit that we can feel sure that whatever ails us also affects the Spanish government and people. The honor accorded us, the enthusiasm with which I was received, and the love lavished upon me while I was there, speak eloquently of the high regard of the Spanish government and people for their former possession.

I went to Italy. The same thing happened. I stopped at the Quirinal. The Quirinal is the former residence of kings, emperors, and popes. I didn't spend a single centavo during my stay there. I did spend out of my own pocket to go to the *Hotel de Roma* and prepare for my plane the following day, but even during my trip to see the Pope, I went on an official car of the Italian government. And if I was received in Spain like a conqueror, I was received in Italy like an emperor. I did not collect anything extra from you or from anybody else to pay for that.

Should I give an account of my expenses against the benefits that we have been able to derive and the great friendship that we have been able to cement in Europe? Are we going to put a dollar sign to all that? , Are you going to dicker on the amount of money I spent? "Why didn't you dicker with President Quezon and President Osmeña?"

TO SUM UP

My friends, I shall not prolong my remarks. In establishing here the kind of democracy that we established in the past five years what did we accomplish? Let me sum up.

We inaugurated the Republic of the Philippines, prepared the blueprint, and laid the foundation of a stable government.

We reconstructed the financial and economic structure of the country.

We arrested inflation and avoided devaluation of our currency.

We solved the backpay law and redeemed the emergency and guerrilla notes.

We solved the yearly school crisis, and prevented the recurrence of the rice crisis.

We have gone much farther.

We have crushed the Communist-inspired rebellion and restored peace and order.

We have emasculated Communism and stopped wholesale pillage, rape, massacre, and untold human acts that victimized innocent, defenseless people, children, old people, hospital patients, nurses, and numerous women and virgins.

We have not only rehabilitated and reconstructed public buildings, roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, puericulture centers, ports, wharves, and seawalls, water systems and sewers, irrigation systems, and flood land river controls, but have also built more of them than before the war.

We have also increased our agricultural production and set up more industrial establishments and expanded our foreign trade. Our foreign trade balance before the war was only ₱50 million in our favor. We have had deficits ever since, but during the first six months of this year, the trade balance in our favor amounts to ₱77 million.

We have fostered the increase of our population and promoted the health of our people by improving the birth rate and reducing the death rate.

We have had no epidemics, no hunger; and the standard of living of our people has become better and better. We have minimized unemployment, built more houses for the low-salaried employees, and fixed minimum wages for the industrial and agricultural worker. !'

We have increased the salaries of teachers and enlisted men, standardized the nursing profession, improved the civil service, and provided a general retirement law and insurance system for all public servants.

We have adopted a program of development that will insure our economic stability.

Our internal security is controlled and our 'external security is secured.

We have established a foreign service worthy of our name.

Our national prestige has been greatly enhanced, our national stature is established, and in the rapid and effective rehabilitation and reconstruction of our country after the war we have become the envy of many countries.

In short, we have made democracy succeed on our soil; our Republic has survived, and we will endure as a people, determined to make the succeeding generations stronger, happier, and more contented.

This is the democracy that we have established and to which we have devoted all our energies, our efforts, and our soul to preserve and to protect.

This is the democracy we are maintaining, the democracy we are defending, placed at stake in the coming elections.

What is the democracy that we have to contend with? It is the so-called democracy fostered behind the Iron Curtain, the democracy that legalizes murder, pillage, rape, terrorism, solely to gratify the lust for power of leaders who

would trample and shame the name of this country and destroy all that we have been able to build in the last five years.

My friends, that is the kind of democracy that is being foisted upon us; that threatens and terrorizes our people in the cities, in the villages, and hides in the mountain fastnesses and ravines; that subverts our government and all our own democratic institutions.

Our choice as a people has been made. We shall reaffirm it at the polls.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Extemporaneous address of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, at the Free Election Rally, Rizal Memorial Stadium, November 5, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(11), 5571-5583.

Speech of President Quirino at the Thanksgiving Day for returned 10th BCT men

**Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Thanksgiving Day for returned 10th BCT men**

[Released on November 29, 1951]

Men of the Tenth

Before you left for Korea I personally delivered to you our nation's flag with instructions to return with it high in your hands.

You have returned holding high that flag as a symbol not only of your country's honor and prestige but also of freedom and democracy.

Your heroism in Korea's battlefronts is the first record of Filipino valor exhibited outside of your country under the banner of the United Nations. The epic of Bataan and of Corregidor has given us a respected name in the defense of our country's right to be free. Henceforth your valor and gallantry in Korea will give us another name in the defense of the world's right to be free.

Our people and the whole world will long remember with great gratitude your noble adventure and the success of your mission in Korea. What you have done in Korea, we have done at home.

We who are left behind have also achieved a new record in our political history. You fought for freedom and democracy outside; we fought for the same ideals at home.

What you have accomplished utilizing the bullet, we have accomplished utilizing the ballot. You lost lives in your fight, we here lost positions and sacrificed party interests on the home front.

But your victory and ours are identical. We both fought for democracy and won our battle.

Your victory in Korea is glorious; it cost lives and blood. We did our job at home without sacrificing a single drop of blood. This was the only election in our history in which no life was sacrificed on election day.

In one well-known municipality alone in my own province where in every election there had always been a loss of one or more lives, there was not even a fist fight on the record in the last election.

In a truly democratic process we saw to it that throughout the country our people in the provinces and cities as well as in the municipalities and the remotest barrios, even where the dissidents roamed, were given the opportunity to vote freely and peacefully. I do not say that they all voted correctly, but certainly they were absolutely free even to commit an error. That is democracy's concomitant.

We have achieved this national feat because we were determined to make the issue of democracy supreme.

There was no attempt on the part of your government and even your people in general to use to advantage whatever force or influence could be imposed to control the popular will. We decided to make a bold sacrifice in the name of democracy.

Yes, in doing so, some of us may lose political favor or even friends but we have gained and established a greater prestige for our country and people in the practice of democracy.

We celebrate this day, therefore, with two-fold meaning—a National Heroes Day and Thanksgiving Day, a day dedicated to the heroes of Korea, and as the birthday of a vigorous democracy in the Philippines. Both in a foreign land and as well as in our native land we did not only enthrone democracy in our hearts but implemented it and fertilized it with our blood and with our soul. We thank God today for what has been accomplished with His inspiration and guidance, with His blessing and protection.

At long last our people now know the best procedure not only to preserve our democracy but to correct practices inimical to its ideals through the free expression of the popular will peacefully committed to the ballot box.

This is a lesson to those who would use force to impose on our government institutions, corrections or improvements in our way of life as a people. There was no need to terrorize the people in outlying districts, nor to commit pillage and murder and all sorts of crimes, to impose on our people and government the reforms that ostensibly constitute the battle cries in the campaign for change or reforms.

We can achieve all these by freely exercising our right to choose the kind of government or program of action that we want through the ballot box. It is more economical and orderly, and the result more lasting, when we resort to this periodic expression of our desire at the polls. It is the only practice in keeping with our ambition to continue our independent national existence as a democratic people.

So, while your brothers in Korea and elsewhere in the world continue to struggle for the ideals of freedom and democracy for which you were ready to give your lives, let us pledge anew at this momentous hour to continue the struggle on our own soil in peace. I beseech you to join hands with the forces of your government in order to restore the tranquility of our people in the same spirit of devotion and dedication to the ideals for which you fought in a foreign land.

In your homes, among your folk, everywhere, transmit the spark that kindled your hearts to patriotic sacrifice. With your noble example help us free this country from the senseless internecine conflict that is retarding our country's progress and prosperity. Help us prevent this country from disintegrating and being delivered to the enemy you have so valiantly fought on foreign soil.

Your proven love of country and loyalty to our cause now make you the admired leaders of a grateful people, the heroic defenders of your country's permanent interest and happiness.

Members of the 10th, I salute you. You have left as warriors; may you have returned as saviours!

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). President Elpidio Quirino's speech at the Thanksgiving Day for returned 10th BCT men, November 29, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(11), 5592-5592-A.

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Message of President Quirino on Thanksgiving Day

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On Thanksgiving Day**

[Delivered on November 22, 1951]

It is an occasion for us to review what transpired during the last year and for which we should thank God. We were too much too distracted by local squabbles owing to the election campaign to single out the great accomplishment of the country which should give us just cause to thank the Lord for having accomplished them.

But as the passion of the last election subsides, I think we can refresh our minds that 1951 has been a very fruitful year for the country not only because of the measures we have adopted to insure our economic security but principally because our efforts to establish internal and external security have been crowned with success. We have been able to subdue those who have been disturbing our countrysides.

This is the year in which we have been able to realize the auspicious beginning of the regime of the Peace Pact we envisaged in 1949. This is the year in which we have begun to implement our agreement with the United States on the extension of ECA aid, which up to today has been made available in \$53,000,000 worth of various kinds of assistance, in the form of equipment and materials to bolster our agricultural and industrial development as well as to insure greater incentive in the promotion of our welfare.

This is the year in which we have boldly fixed the minimum wage for laborers with the view to raising the standard of living. This is the year within which we have passed the most substantial set of legislation made possible by the willingness of our politicians to meet a patriotic challenge and to forget partisan differences in order that we might concentrate our attention on constructive work.

This is the year in which Democracy has made itself effectively felt in this country by our securing a free and peaceful expression of the people's will at the polls. To many of us this has caused positions and friends but the sacrifices were worthwhile because we have considered the issue of Democracy supreme to everything else.

For all these we must thank God that we have been able to accomplish one of the most significant achievements of our times.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). The President's Thanksgiving Message, November 22, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(11), 5591.

Address of President Quirino at the opening plenary session of the Educators' Congress

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the opening plenary session of the Educators' Congress**

[Delivered at Malacañan Park, December 2, 1951]

Dear Friends:

It is more than a happy coincidence that this Educators' Congress, as part of the ; Golden Jubilee of the Philippine Educational System, follows closely on the heels of the 1951 election now widely recognized as a signal victory for democracy in our country. In the success of that election we had a good demonstration of the meaning of our school system in the preservation of our democracy. For in truth and in fact the Republic of the Philippines was inaugurated and its affairs are presently administered mostly by the products of that system.

The response of our new citizenry in peacefully and freely registering their will at the polls was as much a contribution of public education under a democracy. And the role played by the teachers in maintaining the freedom and purity of the ballot showed the manifest influence of our schools in our democratic way of life.

The relation between democracy and education in this country is thus mutually vital. It is for this reason that we are placing the greatest reliance on our educational system not only to make democracy real but to preserve and improve it as our most valuable heritage. This is our only guarantee to be free and to remain free.

We conceived this Educators' Congress, therefore, in an effort not merely to exalt the far-reaching advantages of our educational system in our life as a nation but principally to re-examine it for possible improvement and for the necessary adjustment to the increasing exigencies of the new epoch and the marked advancement of the enlightened world.

In appraising our educational system of the last half century, you will have a chance to isolate its virtues from its limitations and propose ways to make it more adequate to the demands and needs of our people. Such proposals as you may formulate should of course revolve around democracy as a principle and a process, the absence of which spells the death of freedom, the keyword of this Congress.

We get an idea of the meaning of democracy in the statement of Lincoln that no man is good enough or wise enough to govern others without their consent—that is, without some expression on their own part of their needs, their own desires and their idea of how social affairs should go on and social problems be handled. This involves the development of individual and collective responsibility, of which we cannot have enough.

The recent experience of certain peoples indicate that democracy is not a static inheritance whose safety can be taken for granted. Every generation has to accomplish democracy over again for itself. It has to be worked out in terms of needs, problems, and conditions of the social life which is ever in a state of flux.

I congratulate you for the liberal outlook reflected in the choice of areas for discussion during this Congress. I can see that our educators are sensible of the urgency of rethinking the meaning and application of the democratic process in relation to the most disturbing problems of our time. There appears to be a keen awareness of the challenge to educators for courageous understanding in those problems and an equally bold and democratic direction of the social forces at work towards their solution.

Nationalism, for instance, poses a problem to our educational leadership. The spirit is a potent force very much abroad in the world, especially in our part of it. It is creative when it nurtures a just pride in what is of our country

and seeks its further development to enrich understanding and cooperation among neighbors. It is destructive when it fosters snobbery, arrogance, and isolation or is moved by hatred and intolerance. Aggression is not without its roots in nationalism. We need the fresh formulation of a democratic approach to nationalism as a social force for betterment of life among ourselves and our relations with other peoples.

The impact of our educational system on every home and community in the exercise of freedom is indeed a worthy field of exploration if only to measure the reality of democracy in our midst. The isolation of school from life, of knowledge from action, is an old question but by no means resolved. Unless the barrier is removed, the schools cannot meet the challenge of democracy in providing an insight into the movement and direction of social forces and an understanding of social needs and the resources to be used to satisfy them.

This barrier is not overcome by merely loading pupils with economic, political or historical information however varied. The problem is to relate such information about present society with things that are done, that need to be done, and to teach how to do them.

Our educational leaders would do well to consider how our citizenry, after going through the mill acquiring assorted knowledge, may become less easy prey to the manipulations of bosses and machines and the distortions, casual or deliberate, they read in the newspaper or hear on the air. Anything less than this will not serve if our purpose is to see democracy prevail in our homes and communities and for our people to benefit from the freedom it is supposed to sustain.

Incidentally, it has been noted that one of the causes for the destruction of political democracy in countries where it was nominally established was its exclusively political character; democracy had not become part of the bone and blood of the people's daily conduct of its life. This is especially interesting to some of our people to whom the reality of democracy seems to be limited to talking and breathing politics the year round, and to whom no action, especially official, is conceivable without a political purpose or intention—in the sense of jockeying for position and power.

Something of a corrective to this pre-occupation is the increased emphasis being given by our school system to the development and acquisition of skills which we believe urgent to build an economy of plenty and to remove a potent cause of discontent. It comes from the realization that democracy and freedom cannot flourish in an atmosphere of want.

I invite this Congress to measure the progress of our school system in this direction. As of today, it can be said that our disposition to enjoy the fruits of an abundant economy still far outruns our readiness and preparation to produce the goods for proper enjoyment. We need a good deal of reorientation to attain proportion and balance.

And when this shall have been accomplished -and when we really shall have instituted an economy of abundance, the question still remains whether the ability to get jobs and earn a livelihood is coupled with any understanding of the place of the industries and vocations and professions in our social life and their part to keep democracy a living and growing thing.

There are many other instances heretofore unexplored where the educational system could make democracy more real.

The problem of health, or health insurance, for instance, is intimately connected with the matter of economic competence. There would be no point to democracy and to freedom without the soundness of body and mind to enjoy their blessings. But how to keep our people not only healthy but sane is not purely a problem of ability to multiply usable commodities. The leaders of our educational institutions would be making a substantial contribution to the security of our democracy to work out a practical system of moral and spiritual motivations that might guard against the anxiety and fear which could plague the most prosperous and well-fed people in the world.

The study of labor, its history, significance, and possibilities, is not yet integrated in our educational system. We must not forget that the greatest bulk of our population on whose shoulders the burden of a real democratic life rests

are represented by the farm and industrial hands that turn the wheels that make our national wealth. They, more than anybody else who can well take care of himself, must find their proper place in a democracy of decency and contentment. We must, therefore, study their problems more conscientiously in relation to our life as a truly democratic people.

The same with the study of how to counteract ideologies inimical to our democratic system. We often talk of democracy in the abstract, exhausting our knowledge of constitutional law and the universally established principles of democratic process all over the world in our zealous efforts to protect the rights of the individual, and yet we do not exert the same effort to define and analyze the theories and ideologies that rob us, even at the cost of our lives, of that same right. On the contrary, some of us even defend the perpetrators when they are accused of destroying our greatest democratic institution which is the government itself. We must, henceforth, make a soul-searching study; of how to counteract the system adopted by the enemies of our democratic life.

But the most pressing and immediate problem confronting the world today is how to educate the human conscience for peace. Humanity still bleeds in the name of peace. In Korea today, human lives reaching to millions are being sacrificed ostensibly to preserve world peace. If those dying and dead in Korea stood holding each other's hands in a line, they would make a belt around the globe to impress the living with the ghastly wasteful process. Korean graves that we often see in newsreels are veritable endless furrows of human agony that are shocking the conscience of the modern world. On top of this, there is the threat to use the atom bomb—to end the war? No, humanity itself.

Armaments, cartels, retaliatory measures, treaties, and other diplomatic devices have all signally failed to achieve peace. A possible reason is that those who resort to arbitrary power rely too much on their strength to impose their will; little or no thought is given to those below, the common people, who are being sacrificed at the altar of conflicting ideologies for peace.

Democracy is founded on faith in the capacities of human nature, faith in human intelligence and in the power of pooled and cooperative experience. Within this faith, we can well address all our efforts to educating the human conscience for peace to enable mankind to survive and be nearer to the image of its divine creator.

As the children of the same Creator, can we not live peacefully together irrespective of the form of government we choose to guide our own destiny? Thus, the need to educate the human conscience for peace.

These are a few of the opportunities open to this Congress as you appraise the progress and prospects of our educational system against the needs of our people. We who have tasted the blessings of democracy are convinced that in democracy lies our greatest chance to survive as a free people.

Distinguished delegates to this Congress, I look to you to give a fresh presentation of those needs and the possible practical answers education can offer, under changing social conditions, to fulfill the promise of freedom and democracy.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Address of President Quirino at the opening plenary session of the Educators' Congress. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(12), 6100-6104.

Extemporaneous speech of President Quirino upon being awarded a Gold Medal and Diploma of Merit by the Awards Committee of the Golden Jubilee of the Philippine Educational System Extemporaneous Speech of

**His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines**

Upon being awarded a Gold Medal and Diploma of Merit “For rising from Barrio Teacher to Second President of the Republic of the Philippines and for continuing an abiding interest in Education,” by the Awards Committee of the Golden Jubilee of the Philippine Educational System

[Delivered at Malacañan Social Hall, December 16, 1951]

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, and Friends:

This is one of my happiest moments and to my recollection it is the sixth time that I graduated in my career. It should be my purpose to evaluate or make a correct appraisal of the good work done by the Educational Congress and in general to express the government and the people’s satisfaction for the earnest and comprehensive manner in which this Congress has carried out the Golden Jubilee celebration of the Philippines’ educational system and its far-reaching effect on our people.

I already said at the inauguration of this Congress what I thought would be some guiding principles as far as the administration is concerned regarding your actuations as a body. At this moment, you probably expect me to appraise what your Congress has accomplished. Unfortunately, I have not yet received copies of the resolution and the official actuations of your Congress. Besides, it will take me time not only to read but to appreciate the great value of the results of your deliberations. In fact, it will take years to make a just appraisal of the measures recommended for implementation by our government. Any of the measures you have agreed upon will be submitted not only to our government but also to all the educational institutions here and abroad.

I had not been notified that I would address this congregation this afternoon on the fundamentals of education. Besides I must confess that I have no further contribution to make to the success of your Golden Jubilee celebration than to express my personal satisfaction for the efficient manner in which you have discussed all the problems confronting this country and the countries whose delegates have participated in your deliberations.

This, as I said, is one of my graduation days. I have graduated from the primary, the intermediate, the high school, and the university. But certainly this graduation of mine this evening is one of the most memorable to me because it is the culmination of a long career. How I became President after starting as a barrio school teacher at the age of 15 years is quite inexplicable to those who do not know the humble and thorny path of an old man. Just think that I have been connected with the government for the last 45 years, years of almost continuous service. I say “almost continuous” because for four years I was neither in the House nor in the Senate.

It is a long long trail from the barrio school of Caparian, then a part of the municipality of Vigan, to Malacañan Palace. I was not in a position to outline my future conduct or implement what I had in mind in the pursuit of my educational ambition. I simply took things as they came, but slowly and steadily, step by step, I kept marching on. When I graduated from high school, I thought of going to college; after my graduation from college, I thought of going to practice law; when I practised law, I thought of going to be a representative; when I became a representative I thought of becoming a senator; when I was a senator I thought of joining the cabinet; when I was a cabinet member I thought I would be vice president; and later on, unexpectedly at first, but by destiny later on, I reached the place where I am now.

All that time was not pure luck. Nor was it mere destiny. Some say it was 90 per cent perspiration and only 10 per cent inspiration. But the 10 per cent was greater to me in after years than the 90 per cent because the 90 per cent is always found in the success of every man who has risen from a humble position to one *pi* great responsibility. It is that 10 per cent that lasts, that now comes back to my mind as I accept the honor of graduating at this moment. And I want to make a confession because this is important to me.

When I was still young, and that is not so many years ago as far as years are concerned, I thought of one thing. I read something which served as my inspiration while I was in the grades. I suffered hard and long and in those moments of solitude, when I thought I should rise up and continue to study in spite of odds, I composed some lines which I still remember. I used to address myself thus:

I care not what the world may send nor whether the day is bright or dim,
I don't count the pangs of years nor hours spent in tears
Because I know the sun still sends the light and warmth that I need
And because I know God blends the joys and tears to make my crib.

As a high school student, I had that poem for an inspiration. In my further struggle for education, and especially when I entered politics, there was something that got again into my head. That was inspired by a Spanish poem which I remember to this day. (*Applause.*)

And so, in the practical struggle for existence, in politics and in worldly life, facing so many sordid problems,— political, financial, and otherwise, something inspirational always crossed my mind to buoy up my courage and spirit to meet any given situation.

And then, a friend of mine gave me this piece of advice which I observe to this day: “So conduct yourself that both in public and in private life you can always look straight into any man’s eyes and tell I him to ‘Go to hell.’ ” (*Applause.*)

As the competition became keener and more virulent and the cares of life began to overtake me, I felt worried. I was troubled. I was harassed and embarrassed by political enemies and deprecates some of whom no doubt wanted to relieve me of the high responsibility I was assuming in later life. I had to steel myself against the temptation of retracing my steps, bewildered, demoralized, and sometimes desperate, as a result of the incessant violent and venomous attacks of my detractors.

On such occasions, I derived spiritual encouragement and comfort from a Spanish poet whose words still ring and perhaps will ring in my ears to the, end of my life. They form a good reason and an excellent pattern of action to follow, especially for those who want to center their attention on something tangible, something permanent, something they would like to leave behind them, and for which they would wish to be remembered in afteryears.

Said the Spanish poet:

“If I have to stop and listen to the barking of the dogs, I will never reach my destination.”

So, at this age of 60 years when I see in retrospect the thorny paths I had to go through, I say to myself, “Man should not stop moving.” As Oliver Wendell Holmes observed, “Man is like a horse in the race track. After he has finished running the scheduled pace in the race, he is not supposed to stop at once.” The same thing applies to a political career. Perhaps I have reached the pace where I should canter but as I move about and canter, I want to be still useful to my country. (*Applause.*)

So, my friends, this is one of the most important events in my public life. I have been identified with the school system of this country since its inception. You may not know it, but I antedated the school system in learning the English language way back in 1899, when the first cavalry company that was pursuing Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo in La Union, Ilocos Sur, was crossing to go to Palanan. The cavalry that reached Tirad Pass in my province, the municipality of Concepcion where General Del Pilar, General Aguinaldo’s rear guard, was overtaken and where he died a heroic death, that cavalry reached La Union in 1899 when I was still in Aringay. That cavalry used to stop at the plaza in the afternoon and tie up their horses and during meal time, mess time, we children of the town used to go around and ask some of the soldiers for biscuits which they readily gave us. I was happy then. I was one of the children who used to sit on the knees of American soldiers and learn the first words of English. That was in 1899, long before the present school system was officially established in this country.

From then on I went to classes until I graduated from the University of the Philippines. From then on what I learned not only from the soldiers but also from the system established in the country, I have followed faithfully and consistently. The great lessons that I have learned from the educational system and before its introduction bore fruit in afteryears and I can safely state with pride that I am a real, genuine product of the present school system in the Philippines. (*Applause.*)

This system leaves much room for improvement. There is much to teach our youth that was not taught to us during our time. There is much to learn from outside, especially in the present world troubled condition, which leaves the safety and security of this country exposed. There is much to teach in order for us to survive as a nation, in order to participate in the honor and prestige of our new republic, and, in union with all the world, to comply with our duty in the formulation of a policy that would make this world safe for democracy.

It was this point that I stressed at the beginning of the Educational Congress convened the other day. I would like to repeat it: Our country is in danger of being destroyed from its base because the democratic ideas which we have learned from the very beginning are being threatened to the great danger of our very national life.

So, distinguished delegates of this Educational Congress and guests of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of our educational system, I invite you all to concentrate your attention on something that will make this system stronger, more dependable, more in keeping with our present aspirations, and more conducive to the lasting existence of a sovereign nation.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Extemporaneous speech of President Quirino upon being awarded a Gold Medal and Diploma of Merit by the Awards Committee of the Golden Jubilee of the Philippine Educational System. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(12), 6106-6110.

Address of President Quirino on Rizal Day

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the Filipino people on Rizal Day**

[Delivered at Luneta, December 30, 1951]

Fellow Citizens and Friends:

We are gathered on this hallowed spot to evoke the sacred memory of our national hero.

The human mind is so constituted that abstract ideas, such as patriotism, sacrifice, and service to humanity, are illusive and hard to grasp, and harder to transmute into living action in our own individual conduct and in public life. So, in the history of every nation, there always arises like a high and majestic peak the figure of a man who becomes the symbol of the country's heroic adventure in the past, of the nation's supreme aspirations, and of the people's great destiny in the future. Such is Dr. Jose Rizal who towers in magnificence as the perennial fountain of our national aspirations and the undying inspiration of the Filipino youth.

When fratricidal conflict in our country rages; when one group claims to be better Filipinos than others; when political bitterness floods the nation's life with mutual recriminations; when religious strife consumes the most delicate sentiments of Christian love, forgiveness, and tolerance; when these tragic happenings threaten to tear the body politic to pieces, Rizal is our rallying point for national unity in the midst of desperate confusion, to remind us sternly that we are all Filipinos alike and that there can be no group monopoly of patriotism and of civic virtues. Before him who is nothing less than the nation's conscience, we all stand by tradition praised or condemned, not by our party affiliation or religious creed; nor by our material fortune or by the region we come from; nor by the public office we hold or by the color of our skin, nor by the books we have read or failed to read, but by the measure of integrity and loyalty with which we have kept the faith of him who shed his precious blood "to tinge" our dawn.

It is thus the high fortune of our dear nation that whenever amid darkness on the stormy sea of political passions, the Ship of State is in danger of sinking or lashed against the rock of time, firm hands may steer her course by that one resplendent and eternal star, Dr. Jose Rizal.

Through fully half a century since his martyrdom the Rizal cult has daily so grown that whatever the accidents and exigencies of our national life we find in him the authentic exemplification of a faith that pulls us through all vicissitudes

The validity of Rizal to us is not based on the fact that he was a poet, a novelist, scholar, scientist, and the various other manifestations of his versatile intellect and genius. It is based on the fact that he provided us a dynamic, living faith as a nation and incarnated that faith in his thoughts, his life, and his death, better than anyone else did.

While we all feel comfortable about making him a symbol, an epitome, a lodestar, dehumanizing him thereby even as we idolize him, we seldom pause to consider how much greater his significance would be were we to take pains to see him as one of us—human, pulsating, alive. Visionary, yet he was sometimes full of misgivings about the realization of his dreams; purposive, yet he was full of doubts regarding the outcome of his goals, posing even in the novels which were his mouthpieces several possible solutions to the problems of his country's ills. True, there was very little confusion in that great man's mind, because he had only the one consuming desire—of setting his country free, materially and spiritually; but he was a prey to dark disappointments such as you and I are prone to indulge in. In Madrid, for instance, when he saw his fellow countrymen seemingly aimless, having no mind of their own, seeking the path that offered the least obstacles, he wondered sadly what his country would come to, and he allowed himself to be taken by despondency. That was not a Superman who shrugged away worries and troubles; that was a

“Y cuando ya mi tumba, de todos olvidada, No tenga cruz ni piedra que marquen su lugar, Deja que la are el hombre, la esparza con la azada, Y mis cenizas, antes que vuelvan a la nada, El polvo de tu alfombra que vayan a formar.

“Entonces nada importa me pongas en olvido. Tu atmosfera, tu espacio, tus valles cruzare. Vibrante y limpia nota sere para tu oido; Aroma, luz, colores, rubor, canto, gemido, Constante repitiendo la esencia de mi fe!”

With such intense and sanctified patriotism, you, O youth of the Philippines, will keep intact the precious legacy that Rizal and our other venerable heroes have left our people. That inheritance is far more precious than all the gold that lies buried in our enchanted soil: it is our national spirit in its noblest manifestation. On this momentous hour let us pledge anew ever to preserve our patriotic traditions, and strive with full-hearted earnestness to do our utmost to enhance the happiness of our people, so that we may, when the sun of our lives sinks in the west, leave the fate of our nation, not impaired but improved, not descending but ascending, not waning but waxing.

All of us of the older generation have done our best to do this, some with success, but others without success. Yes, there are those among us who feel poignant regret that their hands and hearts have not wrought a consummate and perfect thing. But there is consolation in the buoyant enthusiasm of our youth, in their strength born of freedom, in their faith that catches its spark from the ever-radiant flame that is Rizal!

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). Address of President Quirino on Rizal Day. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(12), 6116-6120.

Message of President Quirino on the late President Roxas' birthday anniversary, December 31, 1951

President Quirino's message on the occasion of the late President Roxas' birthday anniversary, December 31, 1951

I am particularly happy to participate in the radio program sponsored by the "Friends of Roxas" on the occasion of President Roxas' birthday anniversary.

Manuel Roxas was a great man. In statesmanship and brilliance of mind, he was the peer of the best that any country has produced. He had a noble vision of what our nation should be; and, as the first President of our Republic, he gave freely of himself to the realization of that vision.

For the perpetuation of democracy and the uplift of the masses he stood four square. The world, he said, cannot live half slave and half free. To his country and to the Commonwealth of democracies he gave his life. His death was preceded by a speech which gave vent to all the fervor of his patriotism and his abiding love of democracy.

History will honor Manuel Roxas for his versatile achievements. It will honor him as a soldier. It will honor him as a statesman and patriot. It will honor him as the Father of the Republic of the Philippines. Above all else, it will honor him because, having the vision to see clearly the reconstruction of his country cruelly devastated by war, he had courage to meet the crisis with firmness and audacity.

His assigned work was nobly begun. I, therefore, call upon every Filipino to join me in a sincere spirit of national unity to construct a massive monument of deeds in the bold pattern of his ideals in loving dedication to his revered memory.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

R.O.T.C. address of President Quirino

**R.O.T.C. address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the grand stand on the Luneta**

[Delivered on March 16, 1952]

I want to thank you for honoring me this afternoon. It is time that we met in patriotic communion.

You have come to this spot treading sacred ground. Where once the *garrote* and the firing squad cast their dreadful shadow, the heroism and martyrdom of yesterday brought forth the freedom and democracy that we enjoy today.

The lone flag that proudly floats over our heads this afternoon recalls the day where at yonder spot the Republic of the Philippines was proclaimed and established on July 4, 1946. On this hallowed ground, in solitary grandeur and solemn contemplation, stands the majestic figure of Rizal, whose faith and hope on our youth are incarnated by this inspiring assemblage.

This moment in our history is no longer night meeting day, or dawn—we are at the zenith of our liberty. To preserve this day is our greatest task—it is a responsibility destiny has specially placed upon our shoulders. We are therefore gathered here to meet the challenge—Rizal's challenge.

How did the youth, respond to his challenge? We who were young when he died and you who are young when we are ready to give way to you, can affirm that we did not fail him.

His dream has been realized.

We have built a new country. If you look around and recall the shambles to which this fair city was reduced upon liberation, the wonderful vistas which you now contemplate will impress you with the magnitude of the efforts that have been exerted at nation-building.

We have built not only for today and for ourselves, but for tomorrow and for our children. We have kept pace with modern progress and advancement. There is an entirely new atmosphere that pervades the country today.

Barely six years since July 4, 1946, what has been done?

We have laid the foundation of a stable government.

We have not only rehabilitated and rebuilt public buildings, roads, bridges, ports, wharves and seawalls, irrigation systems and flood and river controls and built some more, but from the ashes of war we have reconstructed the financial and economic structure of the country, arresting inflation and stabilizing our currency.

We have increased our agricultural production, established many industries, expanded our foreign trade.

We have improved the living standards of our people, raising the birth rate, reducing the death rate, building low-cost housing for low-income groups, fixing minimum wages for industrial and agricultural workers, increasing the salaries of teachers, nurses, enlisted men, and providing a general retirement system for all government servants.

We have emasculated Communism and made Democracy work on our soil.

We have acquired a personality in world affairs, we have established our credit abroad, and we have made a new name in bravery and heroism in the field of battles.

We are fighting for freedom not only on our own soil; we are fighting for the same ideal even beyond our shores.

We are not fighting for internal security alone; we are also fighting for external security and for the peace of the world.

When the Philippine Army was conceived upon the establishment of the Commonwealth Government, our objective was to prepare no less than 200,000 men ready, willing, and well-equipped, to insure internal security as well as to ward off foreign aggression.

We knew we might not have this number as a permanent standing army, but we relied on our capacity to raise a citizen army big and strong enough to protect our right to be free.

You form part of a select few who year by year are being trained to constitute and lead a citizen army. The challenge of this day is how to preserve our country and continue enjoying our liberty.

In the recent past you helped maintain and strengthen our democracy. It is imperative that you pledge to give your all to do so, for it is for you that the present generation—those now engaged in the battlefields of Korea and in the Communist-infested regions of our land—are sacrificing their lives and our fortunes, that you may continue enjoying tomorrow and with your children the blessings of freedom and democracy.

This country may be conquered again, but it will never die. It will never die as long as the fortitude that we exhibited in the darkest hours of our history dominates our spirit. It will never die as long as we love each other and pledge in unity to defend our common patrimony. It will never die as long as we are guided by the lessons of war in our daily life. It will never die as long as we have faith in ourselves and in the future of this country, and can keep our friends who believe in our continued existence as a nation. It will never die as long as we have faith in God who presides over our destiny.

In all these lies our moral strength, strength that must increase every passing day. Indeed, more than ever, we need moral rearmament to meet the actual and active threat to our national existence.

We must determine to eradicate from our midst the agents of the enemies of our freedom and democracy against whom we are shedding the blood of our manhood abroad. What a sad spectacle that, while we are sacrificing our lives to fight them in Korea, some of us protect and defend them in the courts of our land! Moral courage—there must be moral courage here.

But moral strength is not enough. Heroism, bravery, and patriotism are mere abstractions when there is no physical strength to manifest them. We have to stand on firm ground, using all the vigor that material and physical advantages can bring to give steel to our sinews. Even the rock of freedom must find basic substance.

We have to make this land, our land, strong, stable, healthy, wealthy, and happy, exploiting all the resources that nature has placed in our hands to make it worth defending and dying for.

In my radio chat last night, I enumerated our accomplishments in this direction. It would be superfluous to repeat their enumeration here.

The only way to accomplish our great objective is to mobilize all our Resources and generate the power needed to strengthen our defenses. In a concentrated effort we have been doing this during the last three or four years. In fact, we are in the midst of execution of a program of national action.

We have expanded our production. We have given impetus to industries by the establishment of the basic ones.

The national development program for our country is not a new thing. We have had economists, industrial and agricultural planners, who had adventured in the economic field early in our national history. But we could not make available the means with which to realize our ambition to build and strengthen our national economy. At long last we now have the means with the assistance, pecuniary and technical, of our friends abroad. Assistance in military and economic security is afforded by our great friend, the United States of America. And the whole democratic world looks upon us with friendly sympathy and encouragement.

We must now concentrate our vital attention. We must not lose time. We must increase our momentum. We must take advantage of every opportunity to develop and expand our constructive activities. We must make available for survival and continued existence all the necessary material and strength to cope with the exigencies of what looms, potentially, as the most crucial world struggle we have yet ever faced.

You are already feeling the repercussions of that struggle. The waves from every direction are bringing to our shores sinister evidences of the international conflict. Let us not continue deluding ourselves into the belief that we are safe, simply because we have entered into pacts with our allies for mutual defense. Only the feeling of security which is provided by our own efforts can make our conscience rest.

You and I who have pledged to give our all to this country that it may live, must be alert to our responsibility. As the chosen soldiers of a militant army, we must stand as sentinels everywhere, not only to guard our rights to be free but to make our citizens strong and secure.

You are here gathered to renew that pledge and to derive new inspiration from our present accomplishments. We have shown to the world that we can stand as a free and independent country if we only will it.

This afternoon I invite you all to rise as one man to show that we will! This morning I heard this gospel message: "Every kingdom divided against itself will bring desolation, and house will fall upon house." May God give us light and strength to heed this warning.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). R.O.T.C. address of President Quirino. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(3), 982-985.

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino at the Jaycee Convention

Extemporaneous Speech of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines At the Jaycee Convention

[Delivered in Baguio, March 27, 1952]

WASH DIRTY LINEN AT HOME

I PURPOSELY ran away from in front of the speaker's stand in order not to make one of the ups in public speaking. You remember the three ups, of course — stand up to be seen, speak up to be heard, and shut up to be appreciated. I would have made the first up if I stayed in front of the speaker's stand because of my wonderful height.

I am very happy indeed to be with you this morning. I want to confess that I was longing for this occasion. It would afford me an opportunity to relax. I felt relaxed while witnessing your parade. I enjoyed admiring the beauty and even the graceful dancing of the Baguio delegation. I was pleased to note that there are two presidents among the Jaycees here, President Gonzalez and I. (*Laughter*) You don't seem to remember that I, too, am a Jaycee. That is why I stood up and took my seat among the delegation. But knowing that President Gonzalez and President Quirino are going to speak at the same time on the same platform we agreed to vie with each other in the preparation of our respective speeches. I prepared a good one. He prepared a better one. In order to avoid comparison as to which speech is better, we swapped speeches. (*Laughter*) He has just read to you my speech (*Laughter*) and I am sorry I forgot his at home. (*Applause*).

Seriously speaking, everything that he has said here reflects the sentiments that would have inspired my speech had I written one. There is not a single word, not even a single comma, that I could strike out from that speech. Probably I could have delivered it with more enthusiasm because the idea, the concept of public duty, and the objective of the Jaycees are my own personal objectives. If I were to speak today on a topic, I would prefer to begin reading to you as gospel the program I had just read in your magazine. I liked it so much that I am going to use it as my text.

Jaycee is non-partisan, but its members can enter public life. We subscribe to the philosophy that unless you take active interest in the government, you must be prepared to be governed by people not better than yourselves. Being a Jaycee is a natural preparation for public office. In Jaycee, we learn that government must be of laws and not of men, and that service to humanity is the best work of life. No nation can achieve progress unless its leaders are high-minded. Somewhere in this issue is a list of Jaycees who have been elected to public office, thereby giving them an opportunity to show to the people how Jaycees regard public life. We know they will not fail to give a good account of themselves. Everything is correct except the last paragraph. The last paragraph calls attention to the Jaycees who have been elected to public office: a governor in Agusan, a governor in Davao, and a number of mayors, vice mayors and councilors. They forgot that the President of the Philippines was also elected and that he belongs to the Jaycees. (*Applause*)

My friends, it is certainly encouraging to be with you this morning. To hear your president discourse on public duty and you renew your pledge so well recited a moment ago is to impart a new life, new enthusiasm to your organization, and new inspiration and confidence to your government and your people in the high-mindedness of your organization. I have thought of taking advantage of the attitude of the Jaycees ever since you made me an honorary member by utilizing the services of your organization. I succeeded in drawing some but failed to bring in as many as I wanted.

I am reminded of what Alexander the Great once experienced when he wanted to meet Diogenes. In his thirst for power and influence he wanted to cultivate the severe virtues or derive inspiration from the philosophy of this wise man who used a small lantern even at day time in his search for an honest man. Alexander sent for Diogenes perhaps to ask his views on certain matters. Diogenes curtly told the messenger. "Your prince lives in Macedonia. I live in

Athens. Macedonia is as far from Athens as Athens is from Macedonia. Why does not your prince come here and see me?" Diogenes said to himself, "Why should I go and pay homage to a man who has conquered the world but has not conquered himself? I have conquered myself. Let him come."

Peeved by the rebuff, Alexander sought an occasion to meet Diogenes and make him account for his rude reply to the ruler of the known world.

So when he finally met Diogenes, Alexander upbraided him for refusing to go to Macedonia. "What do you think of my kingdom and of my rule?" he asked Diogenes.

Diogenes answered, "I have long been wandering, looking with my lantern for an honest man. You are not the man."

"Really," Alexander the Great said to himself, "I must respect the man who has been able to conquer himself; for self-mastery is the greatest conquest."

The Jaycees have apparently conquered themselves. That is why I have been inviting them to see me and give me their counsel. Very few of them have come. I had to invite other people and other organizations. I was able to take advantage of the offer of the Lions to serve the government with me, although only to a limited extent. These two organizations are the best civic organizations we have today to propagate high-minded ideas of government. This they have done not only in the Philippines but also in the United States, in Europe, and elsewhere.

I remember the days when the Jaycees went to the United States, travelling from city to city, delivering speeches, and picturing to the American people the problems of the country and the advantages which we had gained in our democratic way of life. They appealed to the American people and the American government for a more benign consideration of our problems, saying that allowance must be given for our infant democracy.

They were quite apologetic regarding our stride in government matters, especially in the solution of economic problems, but they invited all elements in the United States to help our country. Those gentlemen played the role of ambassadors. There was only one exception I could take. Some of them made no attempt to conceal certain mistakes committed by the government, mistakes which could well be corrected by us here without bringing them to the attention of even our intimate friends abroad. . . .

When a man travels and he cannot put all the good things in his baggage, he should select only the best that he can carry with him. He should leave behind the dirty linen, because there is no use exhibiting it abroad. When you have your own problems at home it is almost odious for you to go to other houses and tell them about your trouble because they too have their own trouble. Keep it for yourself and don't advertise.

This is one recommendation I would like to make to the Jaycees going abroad. Take with you the best that you can: our ideas, our civilization, our culture, our agricultural development, our industrial pursuits, our practice of democracy, the excellent record we have made in reconstruction and rehabilitation, the great objective that this government is following, and the one thousand and one things that make the peoples abroad admire the Philippines today. Take all these excellent qualities with you but leave behind the dirty linen for we at home can do the washing ourselves. (*Applause*) Let us not advertise the unpleasant things that happen in our intimate family and say that Juan de la Cruz is a crook. Call his attention if you will. If you are interested in straightening him up, tell him so, but don't advertise his shortcomings every time because whether we like it or not what we say is broadcast. It is transmitted by radio, by magazines, by articles, by conversation. In our unguarded moments, we often repeat what we hear about the ills, and even the sins of our neighbors. We should not advertise them. Why don't we imitate what the barbers put in their shingles? "If we please you, don't tell us; tell it to others."

It is a very simple philosophy which we can well adopt to maintain the name and prestige of our government and our people. There is not a single nation today, especially in the whole democratic world, that does not recognize, admire, and love us because of our unceasing effort to make our country great and strong. Despite the fact that we have been so long prostrated, we have been able to rise and gain a new name and fame in the whole world. Why besmirch that name when we should take pride in it?

As politicians, in our race or struggle for power, we sometime discard our opponents. In our eagerness to reach the goal, we, jockeys, sometimes whip the horse of the other fellow or push the head of the horse that is going ahead of us. That's in the game during the race. But let us not make the race last throughout life or for an indefinite period. Once the race is won, the winning jockey receives flowers and waits for another race. Those who lost can participate in the next race. If they win, well and good. If they lose, they should be noble enough, decent enough, and humble enough to admit their defeat and not howl and keep on howling. They should be the good boxer who shakes the hands of the winner and prepares for another bout. That is how we should play the game. That is one of the wonderful qualities that I have discovered in you, Jaycees and Lions. In your public life you have shown such broad-mindedness, such patriotism, such earnestness to serve your country that you have been able to ignore the little differences that those who run for power in the government magnify. For that you deserve commendation.

There is no time for us now to dicker among ourselves regarding the role that each one should play. The time calls for national solidarity especially because of the menace that endangers the whole world. Already, it is so near that we feel the heat of the flames from across the seas. We are only within three hours striking distance from the mainland of China. We are about eight hours distance from the bombing stations of Russia.

You, Jaycees and Lions, are the new elements in shaping public opinion in the Philippines. I have taken keen interest in your activities and I am proud of your work in helping the public. From the steps you have taken, I know that you are in the right direction. You are not only talking, delivering speeches here and there; you are also setting an example to be emulated by others. You are in the most advantageous position to lead your country. As is well said by your president, you come to give us strength. You are going to be the successors of the present regime and must cultivate all the virtues necessary to make this country stronger, more unified and more enduring. You have been leading the youth. Tomorrow, you will be the leaders.

I am glad to hear repeated several times that your organization is non-partisan. If it is non-partisan, it must not hate any party leader. Do not entertain any prejudice against the Liberal Party, the Nacionalista Party, or any other party. Follow the path you have chosen. Don't mind the barking dogs on the way because if you stop to hear the barking, you will never be able to reach your goal.

I want to encourage each and everyone of you in your respective callings. If you are engaged in the industrial or agricultural development of our country, if you are interested in banking or insurance, follow your choice honestly, determinedly, because that is the only way we can build up our country today. Our territory is small; our population, limited. We must intensify our activities to develop our country, supplementing our lack of territory, of men and of means, with greater effort and enthusiasm.

I am not speaking idly of the economic development of the country. I have visited provinces and municipalities throughout the Philippines. Everywhere I have preached the gospel of economic preparedness.

You, who are now specializing in this line of activity will assume tomorrow the great responsibility that we are shouldering today. We have built roads, bridges, hospitals, ports, irrigation systems; we are building fertilizer and hydroelectric plants. We are exerting our utmost to rush our economic development and provide our people with the means to raise their standards of living. We have shown patriotism in the darkest hour of our history. We have shown to the whole world that no matter what influence may be exerted to disintegrate our people, so long as we have the faith in our own future, our own strength, and in our own capacity to govern ourselves, and as long as God presides over the destiny of this country, we will never perish. (*Applause*)

We want to develop industries. We want to dig our mines, all the mineral deposits we have. We want to exploit the great advantages we have as strategic distributing centers of commerce and communications in this part of the globe. We want to exploit every possibility in the air and underneath our soil.

We want to mobilize everything and awaken everybody. If I had the power to knit the people into one single purpose in order to establish a strong and enduring republic, I would gladly do so. Unfortunately, the only means I have is persuasion. In this I must ask you to help me persuade our people.

My friends, the time has come for us all to unite because the danger is near. I am not a war-monger, but I know that the whole world is preparing for another debacle. The peoples of Europe are organizing themselves into the North Atlantic Pact in order to defend themselves jointly in case of aggression. Outside Europe the people are also preparing for the same danger. And are we not presently surrounded by countries tottering under the rush of communism? When the United States herself, one of the most peaceful and powerful nations of the world, has declared a state of emergency and appropriated \$85 billion, the biggest appropriation in history; when everybody in New York, Los Angeles, and Washington, and throughout the United States is making preparations for air-raid shelters, and even practices air-raids, why should we not also prepare so that we may be strong enough to ward off any aggression if it comes at all? (*Applause*) People talked about my motives in presenting these facts. The truth is that once in a while some men are guilty of suspecting that I am doing this for political reasons. What political motive could I have to warn the people that they be prepared? Nothing. All I want is to be able to deliver this country to the next administration in a peaceful manner with the people happier and more prosperous than when I assumed the reins of government. (*Applause*)

Emergency powers. I don't need emergency powers. The emergency powers given by the congress are limited, but the emergency powers that are provided in the Constitution are unlimited. In case of actual war, I don't need emergency powers. All I have got to do is declare martial law and I have all the powers that I need to defend this country against aggression. So I am not interested in emergency powers. If they grant them, well and good. If they don't, well and good, too. My only concern is to make each and everyone of you and your children ready and prepared for any emergency in case such eventuality arises.

And, my friends, I am not talking through my hat. You have already experienced the vicissitudes of war — death, hunger, oppression, pestilence, cruelty. So you be prepared. You must provide all the means to make yourselves stronger. Dig up from your backyard the food that you may need for the maintenance of your family. Don't let any piece of public land lie idle. Take every opportunity to prepare, to grow flesh and blood and sinews and strengthen our souls in an effort to solidify our country and prepare it for any eventuality.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Message of President Quirino to the Lions Club Convention

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the Lions Club Convention**

[Released at Baguio City, April 6, 1952]

Fellow Lions:

I deeply regret that I cannot be with you today. I am sure I am missing your rousing enthusiasm and your riotous but righteous roaring, indicative of your ebullient spirit in your unselfish service to the people.

I recall the day when, on my initiation as your honorary member, I took occasion to roar like an awakened lion after a period of silent pondering shortly following my assumption of office as President of the Republic. You gave me the incentive to face with courage my grave responsibilities. You kindled in me the fire of enthusiasm which has never died since then. Yes, I am going to miss this new opportunity to strengthen with you our increasing determination to render greater service to our people.

A previous engagement requires me to visit Iloilo and Negros. There are pressing and delicate problems peculiar to these localities that bear great weight in the determination of policies affecting our economic development and internal security.

But I cannot forego the happy privilege to greet you at your annual convention and wish you a most fruitful meeting.

I am proud to be an honorary member of the Lions Club. I am impressed by the quality of the men who compose it, by their interest in civic problems, and by the energy and efficiency with which their public projects are carried out.

While you have been organized only since after the war, you have set up a record of achievement in civic spirit and public service not easy to match. You have provided a wholesome example of organized, alert, effective, and constructive citizenship that is the aspiration of every authentic democracy. Your activities in advancing the public weal have stimulated the equally wholesome competition of other civic organizations like the Jaycees and Rotary in organized community well-doing.

In making the whole nation Lion-conscious, you have stirred up the most encouraging prospects of a new feeling of active social participation and cooperation that we most desire and need in the building of our young Republic.

You may not know it, but you have contributed in a large measure in the reawakening of the country's civic spirit. We have long felt the need of a driving spirit that is peculiarly yours—a sustained spirit that transcends the national frontiers and has greatly strengthened international understanding, thus building up the name and prestige of your native land.

I shall continually pray that your program of service will increasingly prosper. The community, the nation, and the world benefit from your enthusiasm and dedication, in goodwill and cooperation, to freedom and justice, and peace of the world.

For my part, as a faithful Lion, I shall always be happy to contribute what I can, in any opportunity given me, to advance our common objectives.

Au revoir!

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). Message of President Quirino to the Lions Club Convention. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(4), 1291-1292.

Message of President Quirino at the presentation ceremonies for the Indian Minister Mirza Rashid Ali Baig

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the presentation ceremonies for the Indian Minister Mirza Rashid Ali Baig**

[Released on April 8, 1952]

Mr. Minister:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome Your Excellency as India's first Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of the Philippines, and to convey through you the most cordial greetings to His Excellency the President of India.

The ties between India and the Philippines date back to the days of old, earlier even than Magellan's landing on this Archipelago. It is therefore fitting that our two countries should now strengthen the long existing friendly relations between our two peoples. The countries of Asia demand today, more than ever before, the closest understanding and utmost cooperation among themselves, in order to ensure the preservation of their hard-won freedom.

Our mutual understanding finds a more solid foundation when we consider the affinity of our national history and purposes: both India and the Philippines have incessantly agitated for freedom and self-determination and both have achieved these objectives; both Your Excellency's country and mine are dedicated to the pursuit of the same democratic way of life; and both our governments are now engaged in the difficult task of implementing our political independence by securing greater economic and social opportunities for our peoples. I trust that our diplomatic relations will become closer and firmer with the passing of the years.

Your Excellency may rest assured that every possible assistance will be extended to you in the fulfillment of your mission here. It is also my hope that your sojourn with us will be both happy and fruitful.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Message of President Quirino at the presentation ceremonies for the Indian Minister Mirza Rashid Ali Baig. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(4), 1292.

Labor Day Message of President Quirino

Labor Day Message of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Released on April 29, 1952]

Every Labor Day celebration brings a fresh opportunity to assess the gains our people have made in instituting a free labor system as the very foundation of a functioning democracy. Such a system must indicate a lively and increasing awareness not only of rights but of responsibilities in individual and organized action.

In our period of national development, we look to a free labor system that can willingly cooperate with enlightened capital and management to increase our productivity and production. We must succeed in this objective to give substance to our democracy and become a bulwark against the cruel delusions of Communism and their ultimate pay off in total servitude.

The machine age has served well the men and women who use its excellent products. The new problem is to see to it that it serves equally the men and women running its machines. This is only possible under a system of freedom wisely balanced with responsibility in the rank and file no less than in its leadership

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). The President's Labor Day message, April 29, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(4), 1296.

Address of President Quirino before the Philippine Association of University Professors

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the Philippine Association of University Professors**

[Delivered on May 31, 1952]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

When the Republic of the Philippines was inaugurated, there was a message brought to this part of the world. That message was democracy. I have noticed in your discussions since this morning, and in the announced topics of discussion, that your deliberations will center on the topic Democracy.

Democracy has been abused by the different elements of the civilized world. Even the so-called totalitarian countries, who are enemies of democracy, speak of democracy. Which goes to show as we usually say, that even the devil can quote the Scriptures. Anybody can speak of democracy even if he were against democracy, just to promote some known objective or to suit his own convenience.

Democracy in the Philippines has been a topic of both those in favor of democracy and those against it. It has been very much abused. But even those who desire to show the benefits of a democratic country have forgotten that we in the Government are trying to transform the qualities of democracy into concrete, tangible form to enable all to experience the tangible results of democracy. Those of us who are specially engaged in politics have found it very convenient to gainsay, if not systematically attack or disparage what is being accomplished by our government, irrespective of the party affiliations of those who are at the head of it, by calling this government dictatorial, undemocratic, and other undesirable epithets. And our people have become confused regarding the kind of democracy that we are trying to implement in the Philippines.

During recent days, to show how democracy works in this country, especially in our campaign against dissident elements who are really against our democratic institutions, we employed several means to show in concrete form the benefits of democracy to our people. We have chosen two ways by which we can convince, especially the dissident elements, that democracy works here despite communism. We have employed military means as well as economic means.

As far as military means is concerned, I think that we are succeeding much to the chagrin of those who would like to see the failure of this administration, in gradually but finally instilling in the minds of the dissident elements the dangers of communism. We have already broken the organization of the politburo. We have sent to jail several followers of communism in this country. No less than 100 have been sentenced to jail and two or three have been sentenced to death. Aside from that, we also, in our military action, have eliminated, not to say liquidated, in the frontal attack between the government forces and those of communism or dissident elements, a great portion of those unbelievers in democracy in the Philippines. So, both by military action as well as by court action, we have been able to handle the great portion of the problem of dissidence among our enemies in our own land.

Actually, we are engaged in another campaign—that is, on the phase of economic development—showing to our people the benefits of democracy. As early as three years ago, I had the temerity to launch an ambitious program to provide our people with a new ideology to follow. No matter what you want to do, if you do not have a definite objective, if you do not have a concrete program of action, people will always believe that you are just talking of abstractions. So, with our limited means, I launched three years ago the new Philippine ideology based on total economic mobilization. We did not gain much ground during the first two years, but especially since last year, with the help of the United States which has committed itself to give us \$250 million to implement our program of economic development, we started a new revolution in our economic life.

I would not call it exactly an agricultural revolution or an industrial revolution. I might therefore call it economic revolution. We have to center our attention to this phase of the campaign against those who do not believe in democracy in this part of the world. We have implemented that program with huge projects of development, huge constructions of basic units of our industries such as the establishment of hydraulic plants, irrigation systems, fertilizer plants, cement plants, as well as minor industries, so-called cottage industries, in an effort to coordinate the national effort with private initiative so that we could round off our program of economic development, and convince our people with the tangible results and benefits of democracy.

Although we have already inaugurated several of these projects since a year ago, the major projects will begin to be inaugurated by June. We have a big irrigation project in Zambales that is going to cost the government ₱3 million. The fertilizer plant in Lanao will be inaugurated by the end of the year. The hydroelectric plant at Maria Cristina Falls will be inaugurated not later than February of next year. And around that date, we will perhaps inaugurate the national shipyards in Mariveles. All these are part of the total economic mobilization program.

We have seen how industries have multiplied in our country since liberation. Since liberation up to July 1, 1951, the number of new industries established in the Philippines was only 70. Seeing the great incentive and the rush on the part of financiers, and encouraged by the new atmosphere of economic development given by the United States government, the new industries that were registered from July 1 to October 31, last year, were around 72. From 1945 to July 1, 1951, there were only 70 new industries. From July 1 to October 31, 1951, 72 were established. And from October last year to date, I think, that amount has been doubled. Industries are springing throughout the country today. The spirit of the people now is towards industrialization. There is a veritable industrial revolution in the country today. With the establishment of basic industries, I am quite sure that we can now present facts and figures to show how democracy works here in tangible results. This is a different stage in our development.

In other countries, their propaganda is speeches and pamphlets. They go from place to place utilizing all the means of persuasion to make the people realize that democracy is more advantageous than totalitarianism or communism.

In our country, with all the facts we now have in our hands, what we lack is words, persuasion, and transmission in what we are doing to inspire the people and spark them to action. That is what we want. It is surprising that some of those who had been captured as intellectual leaders of the communists in the Philippines come from the ranks of university professors. *(Laughter)*

It is surprising. For example, Celia Mariano, Pomeroy's wife, Lava—some of these intellectuals in the communist ranks, come from the class of university professors. And you are the ones advocating democracy, saying you are doing more than what we are talking about. And I have been showing that eloquently during the last two or three years.

What we need, therefore, is to coordinate our efforts. While we are digging, while we are producing, while we are making a campaign for total economic mobilization, let us evolve a new ideology or doctrine which expresses the efforts of our people towards the realization of the benefits of democracy. And it is you, university professors, who must handle this and not the government itself. So I ask you, I challenge you to honestly put in concrete form some catchy message to our people and to our country regarding the advantages of democracy.

I have long been fighting and I am still fighting, to transform the qualities of democracy into concrete forms, as I said, in order that the people may have evidence of the tangible results of this idea of democracy which will otherwise be meaningless. But others have to help in making the people understand them in their minds, in their hearts, and in their souls, because once you have been able to win the loyalty of the people and convince them of the great benefits of the program of action we have traced, I am quite sure tranquility will reign in this country and we can center our attention to our economic development which is the source of a stable government and the happiness and contentment of our people.

I hope that you will go beyond the routinary discussion of things attached to your profession as professors and help the government evolve some formula by which we can send a message to our people and have something to inspire them and win their support and loyalty to our side. I thank you for having given me this opportunity to discourse on

something which is directly connected with my own duties as administrator of the affairs of this country. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Address of the President before the Philippine Association of University Professors, Malacañan Ceremonial Hall, May 31, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(5), 1762-1765.

Message of President Quirino addressing Home Economists

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Addressing Home Economists**

[Delivered on June 1, 1952]

THE PRESIDENT ADDRESSES HOME ECONOMISTS, JUNE 1, 1952

I welcome you to the home of the nation, you who have been known to be home economists and home makers. I am also very happy that an opportunity has been given me to talk on matters affecting home life because it is that home life that I think I lack in Malacañan. (*Laughter*) It is true, men should be taught how to conduct homes. But it is also true that the women are the ones really ruling in each home. And to tell you frankly, I welcome the idea of your coming here this afternoon because you have given me an opportunity to size up each and every one of you in an effort to see if I could interest one of them to be the home maker in Malacañan. (*Laughter*)

You noticed that I asked Miss Benitez to proceed in her talk because I wanted to be informed on all topics which you have been discussing in order that I can very well measure the steps that I should take should I be required to intervene or intercede in your behalf, or help you work out a program of action with the assistance of the government.

I think I have boldly converted these conferences in Malacañan into seminars. You will remember that in the last few years all conventionists, delegations coming to conferences in Manila, especially those who are leaders in their respective communities and in their professions have been invited invariably to Malacañan. And I have had the opportunity of delivering not only speeches or remarks, but even lectures on diverse topics.

In your convention, you discussed matters fundamental to the country. We always say that the home is the cornerstone of the nation. The kitchen is also the heart of the nation. The woman is the soul of the home and intrinsically of the nation. So, with, all these combined, the home, the kitchen, the woman—we have the heart, the soul, and cornerstone of the nation put together.

During these days when we are busily engaged in fortifying the economic strength of the nation, we need to lean more on these basic units, especially in the rural communities. We should not neglect the people in the rural districts who are living not only a humble but meaningless home life because these are the people that need more help, more intelligence, more education, more instruction so that they may be strengthened as individual units in the community.

Your mission, therefore, is as important as any of the great missions of the state. If this country is going to grow at all, it must grow from the bottom. My idea of a social structure here is that of a pyramid. We should make the foundation broad and strong upon which to build a superstructure which is supposed to be the symbol of our national efforts. But the base must be broad and strong in order that we may have a tall, dominating structure. And fundamental life in the rural districts happens to be the base of this pyramid.

You, therefore, have a calling that lends to the establishment of a broader, stronger base for the national stability. I am not goading you, but your role, at least during this period of reconstruction and development of this country is so important and perhaps more important than the other branches of the Government having to do with our general economic development. There must be a coordination of your activities, your efforts, in the achievement of your objectives with those of the nation and the different branches of the government in charge of those objectives. You are peculiarly qualified for this purpose.

Many a time, when we discuss problems of national economy, and touch upon the small savings or economy that we can make, we usually refer to these little things as just little savings in the family, belittling the phrase. You will remember how your own grandmothers, even in this modern age, have always managed the home affairs. I remember my mother holding the home purse. My father used to ask her for money whenever he had to go out. Many other families practice what my own family did. Even up to the present, it is the Filipino woman who holds the purse and manages family affairs.

What we are to do now is to expand on that. Give an opportunity to women, especially those who have been trained in home economics, because these are the ones that can more intelligently handle home affairs than men. I have to admit that the women have more time, more patience, more understanding; and their reasoning is also sometimes, not always, more sound and reliable than that of the men.

We squander part of our time looking at things out of the windows from our own homes, admiring flowers that do not belong to our own garden, and thus dissipating the love and affection that should belong to our respective families. I am saying this in all candidness as a result of my observations. But it is true, women in this country have been playing that desirable role of guiding the family economy from time immemorial. And this trait in the Filipino character must be so developed to apply to the greater and more expanded activities of the nation. That is why I was thinking of a woman to help wind up the affairs of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, an office so delicate requiring not only intellect but that respectability and perhaps commanding respect because of her sex.

This is to show you how convinced I am of the role our women play in helping solve our serious problems of state. At no time in the history of civil administration of this country have we placed more women in the government than during this time. We have one representing the female sex in the cabinet. We have one representing the women of the country in the integrity board. We have several others in other boards. Miss Benitez just resigned from several government boards. I intend to increase the number of these women in the government in order to give more effective contribution to the solution of many state problems in which feminine intelligence is needed.

In coming here today, you have opened a subject which is not only interesting but necessary and on which we could deliberate in all its details because I know that you are in earnest in offering your cooperation to the government in matters of home economics especially in the rural areas. You have to encourage these family units to be more productive.

There has been a contrast between the economy supposed to be followed in the family life and the economy followed in the government. There is the notion which is wrong that in government administration profits have to be made. Only when the government can spend the money that it earns without borrowing could the government be considered to have a balanced budget. Some do not realize that government service is service to the people. It is the effort of the government to create its agencies without any idea of specific returns from these branches but particularly to render service to the people. And when the government agency or corporation, for example, has not made money, the impression is that it is a failure. We do not stop to realize that the corporation, in its industrial or agricultural activity, has rendered service to the people, has promoted and increased the national income. And, although nothing has been turned in to the corporation as benefits because of its activities, the people who have been served, the institutions which have been attended to, and the activities which have been carried on by these corporations have so promoted the people's interests and consequently increased the country's total income.

For instance, in 1946, we had an estimated income of ₱57,000,000. We have been operating up to date on a deficit of ₱51,000,000. We started with this Republic with a deficit of ₱247,000,000. Our income in 1946 was only ₱57,000,000. Now it is over ₱500,000,000. If you only try to estimate the increase of the income of the government, the money that was available for expenditure, it would appear that the income is only from ₱57,000,000 to ₱500,000,000. But that is wrong because the national income at that time was ₱4,000,000,000 and now it has jumped to over ₱7,000,000,000. The whole country has been benefitted by the government measures provided to service the different activities of the government and the whole nation.

Let us coordinate the national economy with home economy. Let us give more emphasis to the earning power of the government, so that we can have more available funds to distribute and spread the benefits of democracy, the

benefits derived from your government, which is our objective. But for this purpose, we need women better qualified than men. We need them in the homes; we need them in the government.

This country has been shaken many a time by elements which have been trying to disrupt our government. We have adopted several measures counteracting this movement. But the most lasting thing, the one to be of permanent benefit and value to us is the economic phase of the campaign against those subverters of the government. And while the government is actively carrying out its program in this regard, we have to expect private initiative, individual enterprise, and collective cooperation on the part of the nation. The government cannot be left alone to do all these things. And the government is also offering its assistance to enterprises which may need to be helped in order that they may be able to initiate and develop their activities as envisaged in this program of economic development.

The MSA program in the Philippines is a program that comprehends the extension of help to those who take the initiative. It helps those who want to help themselves. Those who need help from the government or MSA funds should come forward with their plans of activity, industrial, agricultural, commercial, and otherwise, and see if in the national program of action that is adopted their plans can be integrated.

Seriously speaking, I think some concrete proposal or recommendation on the part of your association may perhaps be worked out and presented to us in an effort to fit into this program so that corresponding help may be obtained from the MSA funds. I urge you to do that as quickly as possible because I would like to include you in this program of national development through the development of your activities in home economics, especially in the promotion of the welfare of the people in rural areas.

The MSA program is not for big people, or rich people, or powerful corporations. It is precisely for the small ones, to increase the general standard of living, to spread contentment and satisfaction, and make this country stable and unwilling to accept any doctrine such as communism because we already have a system that provides a life of substance and contentment among our people. We want our people to be lifted. We want to elevate their standard of living. We want to spread the benefits of this administration to the rural areas.

I congratulate you, therefore, for centering your attention on this. I invite you to come forward with some concrete program which can very well fit with the national program of action. And let us see if we can achieve results during our time. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). The President addresses Home Economists, June 1, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(6), 2159-2163.

Speech of President Quirino at the awarding of the President Testimonial Plaque and Medal as public official of the year 1952

EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEECH AT THE AWARDING TO THE PRESIDENT TESTIMONIAL PLAQUE AND MEDAL AS PUBLIC OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR 1952

General Duque, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Friends:

I have been trying to dig into my recent past to connect my actuations as a humble private citizen during the times when your organization was busy defending our rights to be free in the mountain fastnesses and ravines of Northern Luzon to date when I am happy to be at the head of this nation.

It is most natural for everybody to expect that I would be given the distinction as the public official of the year, as chief executive of this nation. Naturally, as the head man of our officialdom, it is not strange that I should be recognized as public official No. 1. So, I have tried to scrutinize my activities, my actuations, and my whole record during the recent past to find out why I should deserve the honor and distinction accorded me this afternoon, because there must be some meaning to it.

We were divided during the Japanese occupation into three elements: (1) those of us who, without the least effort to save the country from further destruction and cruelty, thought it best to cooperate with the invaders; (2) those of us who, instead of offering that cooperation fled to the hills, took their guns with them, and faced the enemy in an even fight in defense of our freedom; and (3) the group, to which I humbly belonged, that group of people who—not having been able, because unwilling, to cooperate with the invading forces, and unable to cooperate with our forces in the field because they were discharging the duties of citizenship in the controlled areas and were very closely watched in their movements, and in all their plans—had to remain in the centers of population satisfying themselves with the employment of their wit and all the means with which to obey unharmed the orders of the ruler and at the same time give directly or indirectly the assistance they were able to extend to our forces in the field.

As I said, I belonged to the third group. It is quite difficult for me to understand the logic of our history because when at long last the American forces were able to reconquer the Philippines and wrest from the invaders the authority imposed upon us for a period of four years, we were able to gather our wits and institute or reconstitute our own government. The number 2 and number 3 groups pulled together and were able not only to reconstruct the Commonwealth Government but to prepare the formation of a new order, the Republic of the Philippines.

We who belonged to group No. 3 did not have the advantage of the comfort and protection afforded by the new regime while the invaders were still freely ruling this country. Nor did we have the protection of being evacuated to a foreign land plus the protection given by the receding army to the properties and fortunes of those who had been evacuated to Japan. And yet, we who had suffered in the centers of population, especially in the city of Manila, where we suffered most, at least from my personal experience, had to help these people again after the clouds of war had been dispersed and we saw ahead of us our future as clear as we see it today. And we gathered together again, the Number 2 and Number 3 groups, extended to the Number 1 group the amnesty which was necessary to restore harmony and cooperation of the people in an entirely new regime.

And while we have been working hard not only to reconstruct our political institutions but develop our country on a sound basis as the sure foundation of the enjoyment of our liberty given to us on July 4, 1946, we have to grapple again with a new enemy of our freedom in our own midst. These were the people who helped us against the invaders at the height of conflict between the invaders and our own forces and American forces, but later turned against us. Many of them stay in the hills concocting macabre plans to subvert the government we are establishing. But finally we detected who they were, destroyed their organization, and, at this moment, we believe we have been able to cripple their activities.

And while we grapple against these new enemies of our freedom, those of yesterday who were better treated, better comforted, better accommodated, and better protected during the darkest hours of our history try to discredit everything we are now building, everything we are now constructing—as we make of this country not only

politically stable but economically secure and going beyond our frontiers to secure regional security in an effort to preserve the freedom that we now enjoy and in defense of the freedom that the whole democratic world is now defending.

The strange thing to me is that those of us who suffered most in the past, those who went to the mountain fastnesses fighting the enemy, fighting to the last soldier at Bessang Pass; and we in the centers of population, rotting in dungeons, caught in the crossfire during the liberation; and those who have suffered most while we were constructing this new Republic—we find no encouragement from those who led a better life during the occupation.

So, I return to my brooding as to what must be the meaning of the decoration now gallantly placed on my shoulders and that citation which has just been read to me, and my only conclusion is, perhaps my fellow sufferers in the past have found a way to give a little bit of encouragement to one who, although not facing the greatest danger in armed conflict, had exposed himself, his family, and his associates in the third group and yet maintained their hope, their courage, and their determination. So, I consider this afternoon's ceremony, humble as it may be, but solemn as my inspiration because its meaning will finally affect my actuations in the future. I can only express a feeling of deep gratitude because of the encouragement of the joint measure that you, ladies and gentlemen, have given to me this afternoon.

I appreciate the awards from the depth of my heart, and I want to assure you that in the same manner that you have shown effort to defend freedom during the darkest hour of our history, I shall rise from this moment to a higher level of public service and justify the citation and honor accorded me this afternoon, Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

The third group comes under the libertarian epoch which Quezon and Osmeña spearheaded. They and their noble company pursued with relentless vigor, through democratic processes, the objective of independence to its consummation. Up to this hour I know that Quezon's voice appealing for immediate and complete independence still reverberates in the U. S. Congress.

Intermediate to and leading the fourth group was Manuel Roxas who launched the present epoch of independence, reconstruction and general economic development, and Jose Abad Santos who preferred to die rather than cooperate with our enemy in the darkest hour of our history. Others also died but national evaluation has not as yet been so definite in declaring them as heroes, including those who died in the battle of Bataan or Korea or elsewhere. In this epoch are our heroes in the making, the men and women, you, who with faith, courage, and energy are building a new nation that is free, secure, and content.

Our heroes were red-blooded men and women. They were not absolute paragons; they had the limitations of man. But they rose above their fellows because they used what gifts, what talents they had for their country and fellowmen. They did not live for themselves. By their vision, their struggles, their sacrifice, they gave glory to their respective epochs and left us the basic heritage on which our Republic now stands.

Our country in the course of its development has been subjected to many changes in its cultural structure. It has received the impact of a diversity of outside influences during our people's intermittent subjugation by different invaders. As a result, it has acquired divergent if not conflicting outlooks.

It is imperative that we form a definite anchorage springing directly from our own ideals as derived from the sacrifices and experiences of our heroes and martyrs. We need it to keep intact the authentic spirit of the Filipino race, to give it the character and distinction in increasing measure which determines our position in the free world and the quality of our contribution to its welfare. We cannot begin to speak of our role however modest in the free world if this spirit is drowned out by disunity or by confusion in outlook among our people. A steady loyalty to our heroic inheritance, a persistent effort to give it worthy expression in our daily activities, is the best assurance to maintain the nation's spirit in full power and vigor.

The history of other countries dominated by an irresistible spiritual leadership or inspired by the universally accepted heroism and martyrdom of their sons has shown their admirable consistency and unity immeasurably strengthened by faith in, and loyalty to, their leaders.

In the Philippines, as in other countries, certainly there must be some central figure to symbolize our ideals and to play the unifying factor in our growth and development. Buddha was that symbol in India, Confucius in China, the Emperor in Japan. Some have, in their influence, transcended the frontiers of their country, such as Jesus Christ through Christendom and Luther among the evangelical Christians.

While it is generally accepted that Rizal may well be our Filipino symbol, and for that reason we have already set by legislation and popular acclamation December 30th of each year as the day of his homage as a national hero of this country, we have set the last Sunday of August of each year as a separate day to extol the virtues and perpetuate the memory of our other heroes.

This last Sunday of August should in time develop a wealth of associations made meaningful by our resolve to make the virtues that made our heroes great, the daily guide in our thought and conduct, and to take their limitations as warnings of difficulties we must persistently endeavor to overcome in ourselves.

Every celebration of this day, therefore, should mark a renewal of confidence in ourselves as individuals and as a nation, for in the thoughtful recollection of our inheritance from our heroes we find the substantial basis of the capacity of our own generation to bridge our glorious past and an even greater future.

It should also be an impressive reminder that because our opportunities and advantages are infinitely bigger, the challenge to better and superior performance on our part is greater in the same proportion.

Our privilege today is that we have the broader freedom to work out our own national salvation not only among ourselves in our own country but in cooperation with neighbor peoples prepared to help and be helped, and moved by a similar devotion to the ideals of liberty and democracy. To pay homage to our heroes as a whole, as we now do with reverence and admiration, is to affirm our acceptance of the obligation to enrich the legacy they left us so that we can leave an even greater challenge to the generations that will succeed us. So on this National Heroes' Day I invite you all, the living would-be heroes of this epoch, in all solemnity to accept the challenge that with all the vigor of your soul and the breath of your vision you may all rise to the levels you are expected to attain, leaving a greater challenge to the succeeding generations. Thank you very much (*Applause*)

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Address of President Quirino on National Heroes Day, August 31, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48 (8), 3323-3326.

Address of President Quirino on United Nations Day

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On United Nations Day before the Rotarians**

[Delivered at Polo Club, October 23, 1952]

Mr. Toastmaster, Fellow Rotarians, and Friends:

The spirit of Rotary, of friendliness, good cheer and good will, and the spirit of the United Nations, of peace and security, are beautifully associated this evening to make of these festivities an appropriate occasion for the creation of an atmosphere both pleasant and edifying, thus giving us an opportunity to rise above the local atmosphere of political tension which needs release and relief.

I am happy to be with you this evening, secure in the conviction that I am with friends desirous of leaving behind the noise and tensions of partisan strife. Here in this free and open space dominated by a feeling of freshness and unlimited freedom, we expand and relax. Certainly this select congregation of high-thinking men and women, beaming with optimism and lifted by a buoyant spirit, radiates hope and confidence, proving that the world is not totally lost to us, notwithstanding the dire predictions of the nervous prophets of our time.

I was on board an intercontinental airplane one day when I overheard a conversation among the members of the crew regarding an approaching storm on our way. I immediately asked the operations officer if we could skip the storm.

His retort was immediate: "As long as this airplane is pressurized, as it is, we can always rise above the storm. There is an open big space up above."

And I say at this moment that as long as you and I and our people are properly pressurized, able to adjust ourselves to any atmosphere and control ourselves with sufficient restraint, wisdom, and prudence, we can well afford to rise above the menacing storms and strifes which are but a part of the growing pains of our young Republic. Thus we can appropriately understand the meaning and aims and objectives as well as the accomplishments and failures of the United Nations, the seventh anniversary of which we have gathered here to celebrate on its eve.

The United Nations was founded within the shadow of the immeasurable destruction of a world war. It was a categorical expression of the hope that springs eternal in the human breast—the hope of universal concord and peace necessary to release the soul of man for creative fulfillment.

In 1945, the slogan of "one world" was pregnant with hope and faith, if not with charity. It embodied a resolve that man must not fear again. The winter of discontent was believed far gone and on the way out; the mood on* the upsurge was that of spring and renewal.

The founding nations resolved "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war ... to reaffirm faith in the fundamental human rights ... to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties can be maintained ... to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom."

Remembering the weaknesses and failures of the old League of Nations, the new organization resolved upon a world federation with greater powers and wider membership but with no provision for voluntary withdrawal, to preserve international peace and security. It assumed that the big allies in the last war would continue to be inspired by the same mutual friendly cooperation that moved them during the common peril of that war.

The unanimity has since suffered a progressive disintegration. A new ominous phrase was born and has since gained currency—"the cold war." The East and the West, as words, have taken on new significances far removed from Rudyard Kipling. New planets have preempted dominant positions in the international firmament and satellites have gravitated to within their respective orbits. Today, there is one world still—if you wish to make an issue of it—a "United Nations" but divided against itself. The indiscriminate but deliberate use of the veto by Soviet Russia has made havoc of all the hopes of cooperation and peace that clustered above and gave effulgence to the hills of San Francisco for the world of 1945.

Up to now there has been no way of compelling action from members for the implementation of United Nations resolutions in their respective territories. Up to now such implementation has been left to the sense of moral obligation of the member state concerned. Up to now no effective measures can be applied to member or non-member states guilty of aggression.

Korea has been a turning point in the career of the United Nations. Korea in 1950 compelled a makeshift arrangement for the assertion, however inadequate, of the authority of the United Nations against wanton aggression. Military forces contributed on a voluntary basis by democratic member states or members identified with the democracies have stopped the march of, but so far have not liquidated, aggression in Korea. The situation has brought into focus the inadequacies of the United Nations' collective measures in a real emergency, indeed the inadequacies of any international organization whose members have the heterogeneous background that they have—of colonialism, of imperialism, of hostile ideologies and tragic national experiences. Korea has given impetus to an alternative—the formation of regional security arrangements aimed to constitute an interlocking global defense system for the preservation of freedom and peace.

The Philippines has cooperated and is cooperating in Korea as a military and a moral battleground. It has expanded and is advancing this cooperation in undertaking to promote the formation of a Pacific Union that will meet with the peculiar and varied orientations of all the countries of Southeast Asia.

While the accomplishments of the United Nations constitute a record of positive if not spectacular achievements, the whole world is still restless, nervous, fearful, and many are on the verge of despair.

One of the most dynamic thinkers of our times believes that unless something quite unforeseeable happens, one of three possibilities may come to pass before the end of the present century. They are:

1. The end of human life, perhaps of all life on our planet.
2. A reversion to barbarism after a catastrophic reduction of the world population.
3. A unification of the world under one power possessing a monopoly of all the major weapons of war.

This is just expressive of the failure of the United Nations in its ultimate effort to achieve its high aims towards world peace and perhaps a despondent apprehension of the futility of the measures so far adopted to that end. For it fails to appreciate the positive advantages obtained by this world organization.

There is no doubt that the United Nations has accelerated the rehabilitation and development of backward and underdeveloped countries. Its Economic and Social Council created regional economic commissions in Europe, Latin America, and the Far East to facilitate this work. Programs of technical assistance are in operation in these different areas.

The United Nations' specialized agencies such as the UNICEF for the welfare of the children of needy nations, the FAO for the proper development and allocation of world food resources, the ILO for the advancement of labor welfare, the UNESCO for raising cultural levels and standards everywhere, the ICAO for advancing air transport, the WHO for reducing incidence of diseases, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund for facilitating the economic development of rich but underdeveloped countries, the Universal Postal Union, the International

Telecommunication Union, the International Refugee Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Trade Organization, the Inter-Governmental Marine Consultative Organization—all these specialized agencies of the United Nations have embarked on projects designed to raise living standards in areas hitherto handicapped by lack of technical and other resources.

While the United Nations has not yet resolved the serious problem of Korea, nor has been able to reach an agreement on the control and manufacture of atomic energy, nor has found an acceptable formula for the regulation and reduction of conventional armaments, we cannot ignore that it is the best available instrument we have at hand with which to meet the problems and difficulties that face the world today.

To us small nations, particularly those in Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations is still the best means however imperfect to help achieve our purpose of peace, freedom, and security. It gives us a forum for airing our grievances and needs. It has successfully eased if not reduced areas of political crisis and conflicts. It serves to crystallize world opinion on the proper resolution of problems affecting all the peoples of the world. It enables us to pool our resources along with those of the rest of the world to advance the economic, social, and cultural development of our country and our neighbors.

The dark prognostication of nervous philosophers should not let our thoughts run along the apocalyptic line of doom. Rather it should make us realize the urgency of more constructive and positive thinking as a means to clear the clouds that overshadow and oppress the human spirit everywhere today.

The degree of disagreement is definitely academic and in no way decisive on the destiny of mankind. Its sole interest lies in the fact that I am an inveterate optimist. God in His infinite wisdom has tolerated man to exist to this day; it has been a mighty long time, indeed; and I would not say that man, even in the bottomless depth of his folly, is incapable of early self-extinction after all the triumphs of the human spirit in all these centuries.

A reversion to barbarism is not impossible; races and civilizations have been known to decay and perish, but they have left a rich humus of memories and experiences on which other races and civilizations have been known to subsist and flourish.

A unification of the world under one power possessing a monopoly of all the major weapons of war is very possible, indeed, within this century. But with all that power on earth, there can be no real peace unless the individual country or people acquire the inherent capacity for peace.

Peace is what the United Nations stands for. It is its reason for being. It is an ironic commentary on our times that while everybody talks about peace—the democracies, the dictators, the Rotarians, the churches, labor, industry, business, the rich, the poor, the public man, the private citizen—that while all these talk about peace, there is no peace.

Ours is a troubled epoch, its soul under constant torment, its loftiest aspiration a continuing experience in moral frustration!

The secret explanation must lie in the heart of every man, woman, and child, in the spirit of every group, organization, party, and nation. The explanation is the lack of peace in the heart, in the spirit, the lack of all that constitute and make for peace—such as good will, tolerance, sympathy, helpfulness, love, and hope.

Let every man, let every organization, let every community, let every nation, feel peace, think peace, exemplify peace, acquire the daily habit of peace, and our people, our region, our world shall be nearer peace. There can be peace at the point of a gun or with the threat of an atom bomb but not the peace that mankind longs for, the permanent peace in mind and soul, the feeling of tranquility that everybody has his daily bread and respects human rights and dignity. And this kind of peace can only be secured by a proper discipline of the moral spirit and character of the human race.

This is the challenge of our times. This is the primary responsibility of our educational and cultural institutions. We must return to the Master Teacher, to the humility and the sacrifice that gave Him and His name lasting power. We must not only believe but act the true follower and lover of the Prince of Peace in the intimate precincts of our family relations, in the transactions that make up community life and endeavor, in the activities that constitute nation-building, in the contacts and efforts that require international understanding and cooperation.

We have been alarmed by the talk of revolution. There is only one revolution we truly need—a revolution in the human heart to repudiate the hate, the greed, the selfishness that have been our unhappy heritage from the past. With that revolution in the heart substituting peace for force, good will for hate, cooperation for dissension, we shall be in a better position to march with the United Nations towards the lasting peace that is our dearest dream.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). The President's United Nations Day address before the Rotarians at the Polo Club, October 23, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(10), 4323-4328.

Address of President Quirino on the 29th Foundation Day of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the 29th Foundation Day of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines**

[Released on October 31, 1952]

Fellow Scouters and Boy Scouts of the Philippines:

I look upon this occasion as a moment of renewal and dedication.

I do not think I could for any length of time afford to lose contact physically and, spiritually with the youth of this country.

To be with you, talking with you and to you, mutually sharing our vision of our country's well-being and future, is to remain in full vigor of mind and spirit. It is to remain ever at the source spring of inspiration and to secure a continuing replenishment of strength needed so urgently in the important task of nation-building which faces us all today.

That is how important I consider this opportunity, on the 29th anniversary of Foundation Day, to address you, along with your leaders, your parents, your friends, your fellow citizens.

As I looked pensive over the Malacañan compound from the porch the other day, I noticed the overcrowding growth of shrubbery desultorily reaching under the old big trees that are giving shade and pleasant cool atmosphere in the Palace grounds. I went down for a stroll in the garden and I found real inspiration in the observation that the old trees and the young trees complemented each other, the former seemingly affording guidance and protection to the tender growth and the latter providing the promise of exuberant succession. All I had to do was to issue instructions to pull out here and there weeds and unnecessary shrubbery that robbed the beauty of that composite harmony.

To me, this is the identical relationship between the old scouters and the boy scouts. If Judge Camus were with us today, if Col. Stevenot were in our midst at this moment—as both of them in spirit must be—they would, I am sure, share this feeling. For this is the feeling that was their basic inspiration; this was the source of the compelling drive behind their lifetime consecration to boy scouting in this country; this was the origin of the faith that became their consuming passion to give all Philippine boyhood the chance to develop their potentialities for constructive ends, for community service, for unselfish consecration to the national welfare, to the advancement of goodwill and cooperation among nations of all races and creeds.

I have, at every available opportunity, been stressing what is the prime need of our country and of a world desiring to remain free, peaceful, and happy; and that is the constant cultivation of all those virtues that make the exemplary Boy Scout: loyalty, honesty, helpfulness, loving kindness. Boy scout or no boy scout, everybody, all of us, young and old, should be repeating these words inwardly every day of the year and in every moment of our lives as the guiding thoughts in our daily acts.

People hardened to the hate, cruelty, and antagonism of this world may believe that the Boy Scout conception of the good life is too good to become true, too good to become practical in our work-a-day world.

I do not share, as you cannot share, this distrust of the Boy Scout ideal. Because I know, as you know, that you strive every day to give it vigorous exercise. Because I know, as you know, that the Boy Scout movement in this country and the Boy Scout movement in the whole world, have built a tradition of heroism and sacrifice and service that has proved equal to the hardest and most difficult crisis, national and international.

The last world war is just seven years away in our memory. We need not recount at this hour the deeds of Filipino heroes whose name is Legion and whose moral and spiritual roots can be traced to their precious years of apprenticeship under Boy Scout idealism and practice. Those heroes are now an indestructible part of our glorious heritage.

To remember their example is to affirm our indestructible faith in the power and possibilities of mere mortal clay. It is to present irrefutable proof that we can suffer anything, do anything, survive anything if we recognize the qualities that Boy Scouts cherish to make true in their lives and if we honestly back that faith with conscientious action.

The Boy Scout movement is one of the most important things that have happened to us as a people and nation. It has given a lasting shine to the words honor, duty, service, sacrifice. It has discovered to us that we are capable of all those things and more. It has given us assurance that in the building of our country today, we have the material we need out of which to fashion the durable foundations and framework and body of a Republic worthy of the loyalty of all Filipinos and the respect of all the free world.

In truth, if we sum up all our desires and longings as a nation in order to establish a growing and lasting foundation of our new Republic, we cannot escape the conclusion that we need a new type of generation more responsive to the spirit of the new age and epoch—cheerfully constructive, spiritually solid, and, in mind and soul, lover of peace and universal concord. That is what is expected of this legion of boy scouts increasingly enriching our life as a people.

And so, on this Foundation Day, let it be our solemn prayer that God will continue to provide us with a steady supply of boy scouts who constitute our best material for free men, constructive men, loving men, compassionate men, cooperative men—men that easily stand out as the molaves of our race and constitute its lasting benediction on their native land and the community of free peoples of which it is a proud, peaceful, and prosperous member.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). The President's address on the 29th Foundation Day of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, October 31, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(10), 4328-4330.

Speech of President Quirino at the launching of the Community Chest Campaign of 1952, October 31, 1952

THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT THE LAUNCHING OF THE COMMUNITY CHEST CAMPAIGN OF 1952, OCTOBER 31, 1952

Dear Friends:

I am glad to participate in this ceremony launching the Community Chest campaign of the year.

No cause better deserves the generous support of all our people. The civic, charitable organizations deriving direct benefit from this campaign are established community institutions, most of them with a long history of generous community service under the most trying conditions behind them.

In previous years, they individually conducted their fund campaigns. It has been rightly felt that these campaigns could be carried out with greater economy of time, effort, and expense, not to say greater convenience to established contributors, if they were coordinated under one cooperative direction.

A decision to this end was made three or four years ago, and I had the privilege of launching the initial drive in Malacañan. The wisdom of that decision has been increasingly felt since.

I, for one, rejoice in the fact that our welfare people who are in perennial need of funds are putting more system, more real scientific planning and direction in the conduct of only one annual campaign to cover the requirements of all these civic and charitable enterprises.

The program of systematic giving to these enterprises is the resulting development of our spiritual philosophy as a people. The inescapable necessity of setting aside a portion of our substance for voluntary assistance in the cause of these institutions has become an integral part of our social system and way of life.

This matter of giving is not so much a duty as a social privilege that it should, be our pleasure to use. It is not only more blessed to give than to receive, but it is our special good fortune that we always be in a position to give.

As an exercise in social compassion, it gives us the opportunity to develop the humane feeling which sets us, or distinguishes us, from other breeds and entitles us to the amenities of civilized and Christian living.

Our life acquires meaning, significance, or importance according as we take advantage of every possible occasion to share what blessings we have to make it possible for others to enjoy the benefits of decent, responsible community life.

I do not see how any life can be valid without the acceptance of the responsibility imposed by the possession of a generous measure of earthly goods by the grace of Divine Providence.

Let us not, therefore, stint in giving our portion to the community chest. To give adequately is to assume an obligation to insure the well-being of the community, without which any individual would find it awkward to enjoy his fortune.

It used to be said that we must give and give until it hurts. I think it is absurd to think that giving hurts at all. Wise giving will always bring dividends—in terms of personal satisfaction and the maintenance, not to say the advancement, of the common welfare. Wise giving enriches him that gives and him that takes, and confirms the beauty and wisdom of that sacrifice which found the supreme expression when the son of God and Master of Man gave His life that humankind might find ultimate redemption.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Christmas Message of President Quirino

Christmas Message of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Released on December 24, 1952]

The Nativity brought glad tidings to the poor and the oppressed. Today, it rests upon us, God willing, to expand our liberation from the oppression of the spirit, the sufferings of the body, and the deadening grip of poverty by waking up to our new opportunities, by cultivating good will, unwavering faith, and increasing capacity for work and sacrifice which the Star of Bethlehem brought and should always mean to the world.

I am happy to say that through the Administration's unbending efforts to implement its program of peace and order, social amelioration, and total economic mobilization, our people are now on the road to a better, happier and more abundant life. This is the message of good cheer that I should like all our people to receive this Christmas.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). President's Christmas Message, December 24, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(12), 5227.

Message of President Quirino on the birthday anniversary of late President Roxas

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the birthday anniversary of late President Roxas**

[Delivered on January 1, 1953]

It is pleasant to recall that the first day of every year, a day of new resolutions, new inspiration and new enthusiasms, is the birthday anniversary of the First President of the Republic of the Philippines. In celebrating this historic day to perpetuate his memory, it is fitting that we renew our affection and high patriotic regard for him who had the privilege to lay the foundations of our Republic.

We are heirs to the great task of nation-building which Manuel Roxas and the rest of our earlier leaders, heroes, and martyrs left unfinished. We can pay no greater tribute to him and to them than to continue the job courageously and steadfastly.

Let this be our people's new and united resolution this year.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). President's message on birthday anniversary of Late President Roxas, January 1, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(1), 22.

Extemporaneous Speech of President Quirino to the delegates of the Philippines-Japan Youth Conference

Extemporaneous Speech of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines To the delegates of the Philippines-Japan Youth Conference

[Delivered on February 11, 1953]

NEED FOR COMMON UNDERSTANDING

I WAS mighty glad to hear that you wanted to call on me in order to size me up at close range. Personally, I also wanted you to have that opportunity because some of you who have only read my name or seen my pictures in the papers may have been led to believe that I am what I have been represented in the newspapers or articles by critics who, more often than not, are always lambasting the administration or me to such an extent that in many instances they have developed Quirino-phobia.

I am glad of the opportunity to be thus scrutinized by you. So I welcome you, especially those who had not seen me before. Now you can say, "Well, I have seen Quirino. His handshake is not so warm but at least it does not stink." I am particularly glad to meet the Japanese delegates because I think they should understand us better.

There is a new synonym of peace and that is understanding. Understanding develops into friendship. When friendship is formed the effect is even greater than a formal treaty. In a formal treaty, people only make an effort to clarify their relations. If they are friends, they define their friendship — to what extent they should see each other eye to eye. Genuine friendship or understanding among nations and among peoples is more permanent than a mere scrap of paper signed in ink. The spoken word among men of honor is more sacred than words written on paper and signed in ink, especially when they are not meant to be carried out.

What we need most is closer friendship, better understanding and firmer attachment. We cannot transfer the Philippines to the Atlantic Ocean, to the Indian Ocean, or to the Black Sea. Neither can Japan be transferred to the North Sea or the South Pole. God decreed that we be neighbors. We have had some misunderstandings in the past as a result of which we sacrificed lives and property, and feelings of hatred and distrust were engendered; but neither the Japanese nor the Filipinos would like to bequeath to their children such feelings of bitterness and resentment. So, as we don't want our children to inherit the hate that had been caused by our recent sufferings at the hands of the Japanese, the Japanese people would not like either to transmit to their children the feeling of aggressiveness or cruelty to which we had been subjected in the recent past.

To avoid all that, we who are responsible for the present and the future, since our leaders on both sides of the China Sea have not found occasion to meet and avoid any misunderstanding, we whose responsibility is not only for the present generation but also for the coming generation; we who are now planning our future national action in keeping with our respective national aspirations, must broaden our views, expand our hearts and open our souls to one another and see if we cannot avoid future unhappy events.

Personally, were I to consider that my wife and my three children were all killed by Japanese machine-guns, I would swallow the Japanese allies now; but I am not living in the world alone. I have my remaining children and their children to follow. I am not going to allow them to inherit feelings of revenge nor will I allow anybody to block any understanding that will make our two peoples happy and will enable us to solve our common problems on a better basis than we have so far discovered.

Japan and the Philippines have signed with the United States two separate mutual defense treaties. We initiated a series of treaties in Washington in August of 1951. When Japan later on signed a similar treaty with the United States, it was with the idea that we would place ourselves in direct contact with the United States — Japan in the north, the Philippines in the south, and Australia and New Zealand in the southeast — so that at a given moment

when it is necessary for us to get together and see what can be done to guarantee our safety, this region — the United States to serve as the connecting link — will form a chain of regional understanding in this part of the world.

When I initiated that move in Washington, my intention was simply to form a Pacific Union. My idea then of a Pacific Union had nothing to do with any military alliance or any understanding based on armed defense of our country. All I wanted was to bring together all the countries in this part of the Pacific basin and see how we could protect our common interests. It was a way of inviting neighbors to come and contemplate the real danger as we were then seeing the flames of Communism raging in North China. The object was to prepare ourselves for any eventuality in the future.

We did not have any definite plan at that time. All that we wanted was a chance to bring together all the neighboring nations and consider our respective dangers and regional security as we were facing a world movement threatening to engulf the whole universe in an international conflagration.

If we have failed to get together, adjust our interests and define our attitude due to persistent mutual suspicions or because we are not yet prepared, you, the young men and leaders, deserve to be congratulated for having started this movement which is conducive to the same end.

All over the world today great leaders of states, generals and strategists are breaking their heads to find a solution to the world conflict. But whatever you are going to agree on here, assuming that you are going to agree on something, I am quite sure this conference will be fruitful and that it will require the utilization of the youth today to realize the problem of international action. We — I still consider myself young as I am only old in years — we should not allow ourselves to be mere instruments, mere soldiers, to carry arms and ammunition to fight the macabre plans of nations and countries which are resolved at all costs to realize their ambition for military aggrandizement and eventual mastery of the world.

After all, we of the present generation should assume the responsibility of stabilizing our own life so that we, too, could carry out what is assigned to us — to make our respective nations stable and to insure the peace of the world.

The all-important object, therefore, of your conference is to have the youth of the land of each country, especially those among us here who are immediately threatened by communist aggression, invasion or destruction, get together and prepare our minds, our hearts and our souls for a common understanding, so that if the rulers, the powers that be fail, we can cushion at least with our feeling of brotherhood, cultural ties and intimate relations, those hates that are now being engendered by the conflict of two world ideologies which may engulf the whole world.

It is, therefore, necessary for you to cultivate a feeling of frankness, an attitude of open-mindedness. Each and everyone of you will be proud of his own native culture. The world today is divided into communities. We are developing now world regional communities. There is no sense reliving those days when Japan enclosed herself within her territory, proud of her culture which was predominant in the region, because she was able to strengthen her institution and had a strong army to assert her authority. Japan cannot be alone, much less can the Philippines. Neither can Indonesia with her teeming millions, nor Thailand. The countries around us cannot stand alone against the onward rush of communism. We have to organize our own regional community. The sooner we start it the better for us.

I don't know if anything will happen in the near future, but I do sense that something will manifest itself. An overt act of aggression will stir up the long-smouldering hatred in Korea, backed by force. When that time comes we must be prepared — Japan and the Philippines. And you, therefore, as agents or instruments to bring about what other men have failed to accomplish can at least cushion that lack of understanding and the impact of an armed conflict which impends if nations do not reach an agreement in Korea or elsewhere.

Mere membership in the United Nations is going to be meaningless unless we, especially our neighbors, cultivate that feeling of neighborliness, mutual interest, and promote prosperity and happiness. My friends, as far as that is concerned, I belong to your group and you can count on me. (*Applause*)

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

**Speech of President Quirino on being conferred Spain's Highest Award Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On being conferred Spain's Highest Award**

[Released on February 26, 1953]

*Mr. Minister,
Ladies and Gentlemen:*

This solemn act, the first of its kind since I stepped into this Palace, or, since our own Philippine government was established here, is symbolic of the return of Spain to the Philippines. Although in 1951 I had already received the highest honors from the Spanish government and people, particularly from their most worthy leader, Generalissimo Franco, honors that overwhelmed me during my stay in that country so dear to us, today I receive formally the highest decoration that Spain can bestow on a foreign sovereign. The decoration just awarded to me was delivered to me personally in 1951 by Air Minister Eduardo Gallarza on the occasion of his visit here. However it was only shortly before the arrival of Minister Artajo that my government authorized its acceptance and so it is only now, on this occasion, that I can accept this high honor which distinguishes the Philippines from other countries because very few outside Spain have received this decoration.

Gentlemen: I congratulate myself on the success of this demonstration, an evidence of the love and affection of Spain for the Philippines. In accepting the award, I do so as a token of tenderness and honor bestowed on my country rather than on me personally. I assure you, however, that I will treasure this decoration as an imperishable remembrance not only of the respect and high regard of our people for the Spanish government and people, but also as an eloquent testimony of the personal affection with which Generalissimo Franco honors me.

For a long time now the Philippines has been wishing to strengthen more and more the relations existing between the two countries, both sovereign today; but this occasion is to me the most opportune, because Spain, upon resuming her international activities and seeking outside her borders, along fraternal lines, sympathizers and—why not say it?—allies, of the Spanish government in these days of international turmoil, decided to visit us. Certainly there is no other people in the Orient closer to her heart and more willing to cooperate and coordinate their activities with the Spanish government in its efforts to contribute all that it can to secure world peace than the Philippines, It is really here where Spain deposited all her love, all her affection, and all her interest to cultivate and propagate her culture and language, both of which we have cultivated and preserved not only as one of the most precious legacies of our history, but also as the secret of our cultural and social progress, particularly because it was Spain that nurtured us with her culture, language, and religion, so that we may develop as a civilized and cultured country in this part of the world.

We appreciate, therefore, this honor bestowed upon me and in doing so, I am very sure that my people join me in appreciating highly the great honor bestowed on me on the delivery of this chain. In accepting it, I reiterate not only the loyalty but also the warmest love and affection that our grateful people feel for Spain.

Mr. Minister: I have said that, with you visiting here as the highest representative of the Spanish government, Spain has returned to the Philippines. The poet truly said: "Which love has not returned?" (*Deafening applause*)

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1953). The President's speech on being conferred Spain's Highest Award, February 26, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(2), 462-463.

Excerpts from the extemporaneous address of President Quirino to young professionals and students from Visayas and Mindanao

**Excerpts from the extemporaneous address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To young professionals and students from Visayas and Mindanao**

[Delivered on May 6, 1953]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

. . . This is a most delicate period in our history. In the last seven years we have planned all solutions to our national problems that people from outside are amazed at our progress, at our work of stabilization, and not only at the reconstruction and rehabilitation of our country. Men who are inside are trying to disparage because of political reasons the great work that the country as a whole has accomplished during the last seven years. But all these advantages we have gained, all this work we have accomplished during the last seven years, all the benefits we are deriving, all the name and prestige we have acquired and established, and all the potentialities we expect to be able to tap in order to increase the strength, the stability, and our endurance as a nation, all these will be set to naught if we don't know how to choose the national leaders in an interesting period, in a precarious period such as this, because the great conflict between two ideologies now raging is going to decide what country the Philippine Republic is going to be—either a communist or a democratic country. If it is going to be a communist, and that is my fear if our party is going to lose, then we have lost; everything that we have built; even the liberty and freedom that we now enjoy will be nullified.

So it is a delicate situation, knowing as we do now, the attitude of our political adversaries, knowing as we do now, the effects of disintegration, knowing as we do know the effects of arresting our political development and industrial and economic upsurge, knowing as we do the effect of arresting the momentum of our progress will be a retrogression of the steps we have already attained during the last seven years.

It is a pity if we are going to change a regime that has already started beneficially, gradually, and efficiently and that has laid the foundation of a republic that know, if it continues its work of accomplishing its program, of action, will be able to stabilize our country and make it more lasting than the one we had before we were granted our independence. So, in a delicate situation such as this, we have to be very very careful in selecting our men. It is not wise to crowd all the best men in one side. We have to distribute our forces—each one to his own specialty, each one in his line of activity, each one with his one experience, each one to what is more fitted for him. If one is fitted to go to the field and fight the Huks, let him go to the field and continue fighting; if one is more fitted to develop the country, let him go and develop the country. If one is more fitted to go and represent the nation in the United Nations, let him stay there. If one is more fitted, to go and lead the industrialization of the country, give him a chance to wind up his own genius and assert his individuality and give a seal to his own efforts to cooperate in stabilizing this country. We have to spread our men, as what is said in Spanish, "*Cada uno, en su lugar*;" that is what should guide us in choosing our men. We cannot all be presidents. We cannot all be vice-presidents. We cannot all be senators. We cannot all be representatives.

I invite you to think with us in a coordinated manner so that we can place our men where they are most fitted to mind their respective duties, so that we can utilize all their experience in a manner that we can solidify and strengthen, politically and economically, the future of this country.

I want to take advantage of the opportunity, now that you are here, to discuss with you some phases of our national political problems that ought to be the guide of our actuations during the few months before the election. I want you to contribute with calmness and serenity, of your thinking and your attitude. Contribute that, in our effort to secure a wise and prudent decision in this coming campaign. I would have advised you not to be dragged into this hysteria of thought, of aggression, of childish campaign, converting; even the most solemn precincts in the offices, in the

homes, in the clubs, in the most respected homes and offices, and in political reunions, into nothing but vulgar expressions of one's feeling or attitude.

You are young professionals; you are students. You belong to an intellectual group. Let us exhibit the quality of that intelligence that you are developing; let us exhibit the prudence now being generated in your mind and soul; let us exhibit any feeling of patriotism, a mere cultured way of approaching our national problems; and let us exhibit our prudence and our wisdom as citizens of this country, because you, as professionals and students, cannot escape your responsibility and your duties, because you represent a bulk of the population of our country now, the population that should lead in the intellectual and higher pursuits of our government. You should be the one to be relied upon, guided by all these high motives in directing our public opinion and actuations, and I want to take advantage of the opportunity to rely on you for a wise judgment in this direction. (*Applause*)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). Excerpts from the extemporaneous address of President Quirino to young professionals and students from Visayas and Mindanao. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(5), 1784-1786.

Address of President Quirino at the Inauguration of the Cebu Portland Cement Building

**Extemporaneous address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Inauguration of the Cebu Portland Cement Building**

[Delivered at Dasmariñas, Manila, May 14, 1953]

Mr. Secretary, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Friends:

This afternoon, I am going to discharge another pleasant duty, that is, becoming a sponsor, not in a baptismal party, or a wedding party, or any other social engagement where perhaps I may be able to derive more votes on the occasion. To be the sponsor in the establishment of a building, or an industry, or any productive enterprise, is one of the things that have occupied me during the last two or three years.

Some of these early mornings, when I cross the streets of the City of Manila and see buildings defying the sky, beginning from the Legislative building, the Finance building, the Agriculture building, the Normal School building, the Normal School dormitory, the University of the Philippines group of buildings in the center of the City of Manila as well as those in Quezon City, and the scattered new factories that have been established and in which I have been called or invited to be a sponsor, I derive great pleasure in recollecting that if I did not become a sponsor in the construction of these buildings, at least I have directed that some of them be erected, principally the first ones that I have just mentioned.

With P25 million set aside for the construction of the Capitol building in the new Quezon City as the capital of the Philippines, which amount I knew could not be spent immediately in order to house the offices of the National Government in 1948, and believing that the P25 million might perhaps be better invested by utilizing a great portion of the sum in the construction of important buildings now housing the Legislature, the Normal School, the Department of Agriculture, the Finance building, the University of the Philippines, and about thousands of public school buildings that were destroyed during the war, I authorized the diversion of the P25 million set aside for the construction of the new Capitol building in order to save in huge rents being paid by the National Government to house those offices now occupying these new buildings.

Co-extensive with that official activity of the government, I encouraged public construction of other buildings and homes, with the financialization on the part of the RFC. I am proud to have seen erected in the vicinity of Manila as well as throughout the Philippines other buildings and homes to accelerate the rehabilitation of the houses and residences of our population which were devastated in the last war.

This program of the government plus the aid received from the United States by way of damages because of the destruction during the last war, and which enabled us to construct so many bridges, so many hospitals and roads, portworks, and other permanent improvements, there is now throughout the Philippines a new presentation of the Republic of the Philippines which we never dreamed of even when we were expecting independence to be granted to us shortly before 1945.

The physical feature of the Philippines today as well as the atmosphere of progress and prosperity, plus the feeling of contentment on the part of our people—these are things which to me are not only the fruits of the efforts of our own people with our own funds, as well as with the blessings of the Unseen Hand of the Lord that has shown us the way to rise from our prostration as soon as possible—all these have made the Philippines of today a new country, a new nation with perhaps greater vision and brighter future.

Today, as we inaugurate this building, we become more convinced that perhaps it is better that we construct, many things that can be seen and touched, because the unbelieving population of this country, especially those who systematically ignore the strides we have, taken for political purposes, seem to care more and judge more by what

they see and what they feel rather than by the fundamentals we have been able to develop in our mind and soul and in our life as a nation, for the Philippines today is not only materially prosperous but it is politically, morally, and internationally one of those respected in the world today.

It is remarkable, my friends, how we have been able to achieve all these during the short period of seven years. But that only shows the versatile qualities of the Filipino race and our determination to build a country once we have been given the opportunity to do so. This building is one of the evidences of the new age, of the new inspiration, of the newly discovered genius that our country is manifesting today as having been developed by the incentive given to us, that we may guide our own destiny as masters of our own affairs.

This building, therefore, is an example not only of the new urge that possesses the Filipino people, but the vision, the financial insight of those who have seen fit to construct this building. I am told that, besides economizing in monthly rent at the rate of P1,500 a month which this company used to pay before this building was constructed, with the other offices that are being rented to other people whom you may be able to accommodate in this building, you may yet derive another income of P3,000 a month. So you get money in the investment, you economize in rent, and in ten years: you will be able to recuperate all the money invested in the construction of this building.

I, therefore, want to congratulate the vision and the foresight of the board of directors of the corporation for having initiated the construction of this building, and I wish that other corporations of the government, with the new incentive being given and the stimulation being extended by the new Secretary of Economic Coordination, they may yet expand the program of construction with the same benefits that are now shown to be of beneficial results to this corporation.

This building costs P1,200,000. But the economic value, the example set for other corporations that expect to construct their own buildings, it is a better value to the government. I am told that the next building to be inaugurated will be that of the PRISCO. Let me hope that they will achieve the same economy and derive the same income and show greater vision with the honor of the members of the board of directors of that corporation.

Ladies and gentlemen, I congratulate the board of directors of this building for the expansion of their program of establishing other buildings and factories, particularly that in La Union, with the hope that others will eventually be constructed to facilitate the erection of buildings by them by the proper and adequate furnishing of materials by the CEPOC furnishing constructing enterprises, thus increasing, such buildings of this beauty and vision. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). Extemporaneous address of President Quirino at the Inauguration of the Cebu Portland Cement Building. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(5), 1789-1792.

Extemporaneous of President Quirino before signing the Magna Charta of Labor

Extemporaneous Speech of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines Before signing the Magna Charta of Labor

[Delivered at Malacañan, June 17, 1953]

My Fellow Laborers:

You have every reason to rejoice over the signing of this bill. It is designed to secure industrial peace in the country. The rights, duties, and obligations, as well as privileges of both the laborers and the management are well defined, calculated to be the basis of an intelligent interpretation of the intent of the Legislature which is far reaching.

You may not believe it, but this bill will spell success in our industrial program if carried out in the spirit and to the letter of the law. Of course, there is that human element, that human equation which must come in to complement or supplement whatever deficiency or insufficiency the provisions of this law may have, in order to adjust ourselves—management and the laborers—to conditions obtaining in particular localities.

Both management and labor need a little bit of restraint, physical as well as moral, mostly moral, because it is this that dictates the acts of men. So, in providing for the elimination of the rights, duties, and privileges of management and labor, it was intended by the Legislature that this country would be stabilized with the cooperation of both management and labor, and allow us to carry on our huge program of industrial and agricultural development which is the need of the country today.

No matter what people say to the contrary, no matter what people denounce to the skies; no matter how critical our opponents in politics may seem, regarding the accomplishments of the Legislature, we are on record as having established here a regime openly, decidedly, in favor of labor.

I shall not cite instances where the administration has been able to implement this policy.

With the approval of this law, therefore, I have great hopes and confidence that you will do your part in the fulfillment of your rights, duties, and obligations, considering the rights of management, which after all is your associate. And my friends, before I sign this bill, I want to stress on your mind that I do it in the spirit of cooperation for the security of our industrial pursuits and efficiency in the management of labor in our agricultural and industrial development.

In this spirit, I am going to sign the bill and I hope that you will do your share without stint or reservation. *(Applause)*

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1953). Extemporaneous speech of the President immediately before signing the Magna Charta of Labor at Malacañan, 5 p.m., June 17, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(6), 2226.

Message of President Quirino on Independence Day

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the Independence of the Philippines**

[Released on July 1, 1953]

The progress of our Republic since its birth seven years ago in reconstruction from the debris of war, in democratic orderly processes, in internal and external security, in economic stability and enhanced living standards, testifies to the vision and vigor with which our people have carried on under their own banner of political freedom.

Any report to the contrary flies in the face of positive fact and maligns a nation that has prayed and worked so hard against tremendous odds to advance and to establish, as it has done, its own secure place of dignity and honor in the free world.

But any objective attained merely clears the way for greater effort towards greater goals and imposes deeper dedication to the continuing advancement of our country's good name and well-being. What we have accomplished strengthens our faith and broadens our reliance on the mercy and wisdom of Divine Providence that watches over all nations.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1953). President Quirino's Independence Day message. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(7), 2736.

Extemporaneous address of President Quirino upon arriving at the Manila International Airport

**Extemporaneous address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Upon arriving at the Manila International Airport**

[Delivered on September 7, 1953]

Fellow Countrymen:

My tongue is almost arrested in my endeavor to rush my heart direct to you with the deepest gratitude I now feel because of this huge demonstration which has brought us together here in this spot with friendship, goodwill, and kindness. *(Applause)*

I left, several times in the past, in different capacities, and returned on several occasions during these trips with a successful mission accomplished. But never before have I been accorded such a tribute that I am now receiving at this moment. I am humbled to the extreme to acknowledge this tribute. Compared to the past, perhaps this is a different atmosphere, because of the different missions that prompted me to leave the country.

But the particular difference today, and this is perhaps the reason why, is this genuine and eloquent manifestation of your esteem.

I have been reported as dead and now I am coming back alive. *(Applause)* I think somebody reported that I was dying, some said that I was dyeing my hair *(laughter)* I don't believe that any single white hair has been added during my three months confinement in bed. But there is something which has transpired in my heart and soul, as the result of the difficulties, the vicissitudes and ordeals which I had to go through, and that is, that I was granted a new feeling, a new resolve with the new lease on life that I now have, and I want to dedicate the remaining years of my life to the welfare of the nation and the people. *(Applause)*

I have had an opportunity, both here and in Baltimore, not only to study this question; namely, for the Philippines to strengthen and foster the long standing beneficial results of our relationships with the United States, but also to observe from afar the relative position of our beloved country in the face of the changing world conditions.

The present lull in the armed conflict in Korea pending the conference now being held in New York to settle differences of the participating nations in that armed conflict is portentous of unexpected developments. In some countries, there are expressions of premature skepticism regarding the results of that conference. But what I did observe, is that while they are preparing to settle this most important question in this part of the Pacific, the great powers have not ceased to make preparations for any untoward eventuality.

The Philippines, therefore, should not be lulled into a complacency that may be disastrous to us if we neglect to defend and protect the institutions we have established and which are now the source of our happiness and prosperity. In my resolve, therefore, upon returning to your fold, I made up my mind to so conduct myself that the democracy which we have established here shall continue to exist and to struggle hard to the last, drop of our blood to preserve such institutions which I know will be the perpetual source of our happiness, prosperity, and glory. *(Mabuhay!)*

I was not very much worried about my health. I was more worried about the health of the nation. I left the Philippines still stirring with local partisan conflict. I made up my mind that during my absence, I should not convert any portion of the territory of any country where I might be into a battlefield for my political struggles. Whenever I found myself on foreign soil, I therefore refused to talk about political issues that are now occupying my mind. Now that I am here, you can do as you please. *(Applause)* You can call me a dead man, you can call me a dying man, you

can call me a man that has already been liquidated,— anything that you want—as long as you give me a chance to give you a good comeback. *(Applause)*

And I tell you, my friends, we are still struggling to preserve this nation. No nation in the world today has played the role that we have played, considering our insignificance in territory, in population, and in wealth. The great strides that we have made in politics as well as in the economic field, in our determination to make the last sacrifice in defense of democracy, is the object of admiration of the whole world.

I want you to bear in mind that instead of these internal political struggles that are now raging in the country, sowing confusion instead of coalition (laughter) among all elements against the administration, there should be a combination of all the elements to uphold and defend the institutions that we have established. I, for one, am ready for the sacrifice, but I think it is too late for me to withdraw. *(Laughter)* We may just as well play the game until it is finished, bearing in mind our great responsibility, that this administration—this administration and this government and this people, and these institutions we have established—do not belong to any particular party or group. My friends, in this resolve, I am one and all with you that we should maintain the tranquility and the peace of-mind of the country while we grapple for positions that are now being prematurely ‘distributed as part of the spoils system of the combination of business and politics. *(Applause and laughter)*

Fellow countrymen and friends, please accept my deepest gratitude for the eloquent and genuine manifestation of your esteem. I shall endeavor during the remaining years of my life to justify it and to make myself fully deserving of the kindnesses which you have showered upon me, especially during the period most critical to my life, when I was reported dead.

To me, this is a day of resurrection. *(Applause)* And with me, I want you all to be resurrected. *(Applause)* May God bless you all and may you always be kind to the country we all love.. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1953). Extemporaneous Address of President Quirino upon arriving at the Manila International Airport. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 49(9)*, 3830-3832.

Extemporaneous speech of President Quirino on the occasion of the Feast of the Lady of Peñafrancia
Extemporaneous speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of the Feast of the Lady of Peñafrancia

[Delivered on September 20, 1953]

My Friends of Bicolandia:

In coming to Naga today, it was not my intention to hold any public meeting. As a matter of fact, I really came on a pilgrimage to fulfill a vow that I had made when through the intercession of the Lady of Peñafrancia, I luckily escaped death through two difficult operations at Johns Hopkins Hospital. And now, that I am able to make this trip, I want to make good my word.

I would not spoil the symbolic mission that impelled me to come to Naga today by delivering a political speech. But I think it is necessary, and I cannot escape the responsibility of saying “hello” to my constituency in this part of our country and assure them that I have returned determined to serve further the interest of both this country and that of our children.

This is a crucial period in our national history. We established the Republic in 1946 which many people feared might not continue to exist owing to handicaps, the great disadvantages, and the dark clouds that were still hovering over our skies when our independence was granted. These difficulties were so big that people not only here but from across the seas, who have observed the conduct of our nation and the way we have been able to brave difficulties during the darkest hour of our history—although we were assured of the help, and we had the determination, the courage, and the vision to move forward and establish a strong democratic institution—many of them feared that we might not be able to stand on our own feet because we were then not only impoverished, but practically in tatters. We were begging in the streets, people were poorly dressed, our farms were devastated, our industries were all paralyzed; and we only expected that our friends across the seas might give us assistance needed to rehabilitate and reconstruct our country.

Thank God, because of our determination and industry, and because we have endeavored to make the best of the circumstances, most of which were almost God-given, because we were favored by good crops, by good climate, and by peaceful conditions, we have been able to rebuild this nation, to reconstruct and rehabilitate this country, and further than that, we have been able to achieve something for which we are now known throughout the world as a stable Republic. (*Applause*)

But we are not sure to continue existing as a Republic if we do not know how to protect and preserve our democratic institutions. The world is still in the midst of turmoil. While it is true that you do not hear here the cannons from our immediate vicinity, recently lulled by a peace conference that is now being held in New York City, there is no telling, nobody can say what is going to happen tomorrow, because the conditions of the world, as they are now, do not permit us to feel so secure without being prepared to face the great difficulties ahead.

Our country today needs stability, it needs unity, it needs solidarity. This is not the time for us to be wrangling, fighting for power, just for the mere exercise of it. What we need today is to develop our country, to make our people feel stronger, to give them a life of substance, contentment, and happiness, so that they may not be induced to espouse the cause of the communists who are now disintegrating the whole world hoping to dominate the world, which is inspiring their activities here and everywhere else.

And, my dear friends of Bicolandia, we rely on you to join hands and support the government we have established, the government that has given you for the last six or seven years the stability, prosperity, and happiness that you now enjoy. It is the Liberal Party that gave you all these, no other party. (*Applause*)

Of course, I do not claim to be the author of everything that has been accomplished in our favor, to make of this country stable, internally strong, and externally secure. This achievement is the common work of all of us. But even that common work did not sprout spontaneously. There was a directing hand, there was a vision, there was somebody who worked out the program to achieve all these. Then who is that head, and whose is that vision, and whose is that organization that has made all these things possible for us? It is this administration, it is this leadership and this party that thought of everything, the party that comes to you and asks you to continue it in power so that you may continue to enjoy the benefits that you are now enjoying. (Applause). And I want you to fight for this administration, to fight for the things we have espoused in 1946, and to fight for the further existence of the institution that we launched on July 4, 1946.

My friends, let us preserve our nation, solidify ourselves, preserve all that we have been enjoying today for your children and for those who will come after them. Thank you very much. (*Mabuhay!*)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). Extemporaneous speech of President Quirino on the occasion of the Feast of the Lady of Peñafrancia. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(9), 3834-3836.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Speech of President Quirino at the Convocation of the Student Body of the University of the East, September 30, 1953

Extemporaneous speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the convocation of the student body of the University of the East

[Delivered on September 30, 1953]

President of the Board of Regents
Members of the Faculty
Members of the Great Institution
Student Body of this
Fellow Guests and Friends:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to be with you this afternoon. I assure you I was more than eager to stand before this huge assemblage if only to show to this intelligent and understanding group that your President, using a popular idiom, is still kicking around. *(Applause)*

Filipinos are rich in imagination *(laughter)*, and richer-still in speculation. *(Laughter)* There is nothing rhetorical about these expressions. They are true to form in my case.

I understand that some newspaper publishers, in their eagerness to make a scoop—natural in the newspaper profession—had extra editions ready announcing my death when it was learned from sources not too friendly that my second surgical operation was not responding satisfactorily to treatment. Had that happened, that is, the announcement of my premature death, I would have enjoyed reading my own obituary upon my return from the United States and experiencing the unique opportunity of finding out how my people felt towards me and my stewardship in the last five years.

I thank the Almighty that I came back not dead but rid of the ailment that would have hampered my efficiency and usefulness to the nation and now able to lead a life of further fruitful achievement, if given a chance to do so. *(Applause)*

About a year ago, invited to appear before the student body of this great University, I was asked point blank if I was running for re-election. Desirous not to harm my administration by arousing suspicion regarding the motives of my actuations thereafter, I shied at the question.

Now I am prepared to answer it in the affirmative. I must say at the outset that in seeking nomination I did not beg for it. I simply made my position clear. I was lying flat in my bed on May 12 of this year when my party nominated me unanimously as its standard-bearer.

My friends, I have been serving for more than five years, pushing a program not only of administration but of nation-building of the greatest scope, its effect most far-reaching upon our people. You are all familiar with conditions obtaining in Manila immediately after Liberation. You know what have transpired in our life as a nation, how we have established our Government since we inaugurated this Republic on July 4, 1946. The residents of Manila, in particular, and those of the neighboring provinces who went through the darkest hour of our history, bear witness to the great strides we have since taken politically and economically. I need not recite my role during this

period of reconstruction, rehabilitation, and nation-building. The record speaks for itself. My conscience is clear. One thing I know, that my descendants will be proud of the fact that I presided over the destiny of this nation, encouraging and enabling our people to stand on their feet and establishing a government now respected—even loved and envied—by friends and associates from across the seas.

I do not attribute the great development of this country during the last six or seven years solely to my personal efforts. But I must say that whatever this country has been able to accomplish under a national program of action has not been done by accident. Somebody must have planned that and generated the motive power and pushed the program through to enable us to attain the economic and political stability that we now enjoy. I repeat I do not attribute all of this personally to my efforts, but I am proud to state there has been proper coordination, and as a result, despite the systematic obstruction in recent years by the opposition, we have pushed our program through successfully. In the last three years, we have inaugurated one project after another in our program of development.

Now that we are about to complete our program, new issues have cropped up, confusing the public mind and retarding, even stultifying, our advance to our national goal.

I want to thank you, Doctor Dalupan, for the opportunity to elucidate on some of those issues and to stress their importance to our future existence as a nation.

We are still in the midst of that task. We have, so far, broadened the foundation of this Republic and set up there on the essential parts so that the superstructure could withstand the impact of increased activity. Unfortunately, there has arisen a body, a band, a demolition squad, so to speak, the professional wreckers of this Administration, pointing out not only to us but to the whole world that we have been a failure. But only yesterday those people, now harassing and embarrassing us, were my associates who found words insufficient, to describe our progress in nation-building.

Strange things do happen in politics. Friends today, enemies tomorrow. Why? Because political power is so viciously attractive that it makes one easily forget past associations and affections. The tantalizing lust for power brings out one's uglier traits. Detractors predict that this coming election is the last call for democracy in our country.

But this country is going to last. The foundations are well laid and made secure not only locally but internationally. Aside from the bold total economic mobilization which we launched in 1949, we have established relations to achieve our external security, entering into pacts and understandings with the United States and our associates in the Pacific and in the Atlantic.

Heretofore the issues in this campaign have centered on the matter of qualifications of the candidates—that so and so is too young, that so and so is too old, that so and so is inexperienced, that so and so loves the common *tao*. I am prepared to show that under the direction of my party, the Liberal Party, this country has attained stability and strength. I rely on that record and on the sense of fairness of our people as the hour for final decision approaches.

However, a new issue has cropped up—an issue that endangers this country after having climbed from humiliation in recent years. The opposition has raised the bugaboo that the party in power in order to win in the next election would commit fraud and terrorism and that it is necessary for the United States to intervene, in the name of democracy, so as to preserve the institutions we have succeeded in establishing in this country. As a matter of fact, the opposition is signaling throughout the world for help because its rightful leader is afraid to fight for his own party and to face me in this election.

Now the opposition is dragging down the name and prestige of this administration with the threat that a foreign country is supporting my opponent and that I must watch out because, if my tenancy in office and the present administration are prolonged, the United States will withdraw the assistance being extended to us. My opponents are calling on a foreign power to supervise our internal affairs avowedly to restore democracy. Let me tell you with all possible emphasis that democracy in this country has never been more vigorous.

What kind of democracy do they want, what kind of political institutions, what kind of tolerance, what kind of patience do they want? Is it not a fact that most people you meet in the streets, in the bars, in the restaurants, on the platform, on the radio, and in the press freely and loudly criticize your own President even exceeding the limits of decency and decorum? Some even go to the extent of conveying the impression that I am lame, that I am sick, that I should no longer continue in office, that it is time for me to retire. Retire—I would like to do that, but not in the way they have been trying to persuade me—through intimidation and threat.

First, they invited me and the presidential aspirant who failed in 1949 to withdraw from the presidential race, in the name of patriotism and democracy, in order, it was claimed, to avoid bloodshed and revolution. Instead of accepting that proposition, believing that the one I defeated in 1949 was ready—and I felt ready myself—I told him (Doctor Laurel) to stand up and fight for himself. They failed in that. Then they sounded out the alarm that, if I ran for re-election, there would be violence, bloodshed everywhere. That did not scare me or my party.

Again they went to the people and told them that if I were re-elected or the present administration were to continue, the United States of America would stop the assistance we have been receiving from her. They kept on anticipating that there would be fraud, terrorism, and bloodshed in the next election, urging a foreign power to come to the Philippines to restore peace and order and to secure the election of the American candidate to the same post.

That is the true and naked issue that the opposition has raised lately. Are we going to allow the United States of America—or any other power for that matter—to come to the Philippines, supervise our election, and place ourselves under foreign control in order to make way for the candidate avowedly supported by the United States of America?

Unfortunately, such threats, which in the past I considered childish, have been fanned lately by a susceptible American correspondent who, after a few days' visit, had the cheek to tell us that the candidate of the United States—of the American people and official Washington—was my opponent. Now, these have been half-hearted attempts from opposition quarters to deny that the opposition's candidate bears the American brand, but my own opponent himself has had the temerity to assume the role of spokesman for the United States, repeatedly proclaiming that, if the present administration continued in office, America would withdraw her aid from the Philippines. Speaking of colonial-mindedness, this takes the cake.

My friends, I have come to you with a message and a mission. It is necessary to know the background of what I am going to say. The bugaboo of fraud and terrorism, which they claim will be perpetrated by the present administration, is nothing but an advance *alibi* for the defeat they fear to encounter in the coming election. It provides a convenient smokescreen for their own fraud and terrorism.

The trouble is they cannot conceive the Filipino people of being capable of grappling with multifarious problems, going farther than did past generations faced with problems of less magnitude, and making readjustments, collectively or individually, to enable this country to meet the present world exigencies. My opponent cannot understand that our people can just smile at those threats and promises being dished out in the barrios and the outlying districts—threats of putting people to jail for graft or corruption, fantastic promises of improvement for the common *tao*—as so much rigamarole to distract the people away from the primary and real issue, in this campaign, which is to continue building this nation in order to insure its stability and durability. It is not a question of whether one party should be given a chance to hold the reins of power. This is not a race for power. The issue is, which party can serve and promote the interests of the country better, politically and economically.

In other words, shall this country continue in its momentum of upward surge in the preparation of its stability and durability or shall we entrust the future of this country to untried, adventurous hands merely hungry for power and relying on foreigners who may destroy the very independence and sovereignty of this country?

This continuous talk of bloodshed, of fraud, of terrorism, of intervention of the United States is destroying the morale of the people, driving away prospective investors, discouraging the development of industries, poisoning the economic and political life of our people, smearing the name and prestige of this Republic, and sacrificing the honor and dignity of our people.

My friends, you need not be afraid of fraud, of terrorism, of bloodshed, of revolution. Revolution cannot come from this administration. Revolution cannot come from the governing power. Revolution means defiance of the established order. The people's will is supreme here. The established order is in our hands, your hands.

Revolution must come from the minority, and if the minority wants to make good its threat, I want to announce now that I am prepared to meet that threat without the assistance of any foreign power. *(Applause)* I shall die fighting for our sovereignty and dignity. *(Applause)*

In the early days, when we were organizing our own government and preparing our treaties and understandings with other nations, especially with the United States, I had the great privilege of being instrumental in concluding each and every treaty entered into by our Republic. And I have shown, and the minority must admit, that I have never ceded any single territory, not even an inch, by any dubious concession of extraterritorial rights in the very City of Manila. *(Applause)* And as long as I am at the head of this nation, as long as I have the power and the strength of life to stop those who would like to take advantage of this most mercenary, undignified attitude and who would invite foreign intervention, I will resist to the last drop of my blood any such attempt. *(Applause)*

Why did we work so hard, fight for centuries, repel enemies who came here in successive waves, and make our shores crimson with our blood? Why the struggle for centuries and centuries to be independent and sovereign and now, simply for the election of one candidate for president, barter everything—the fame and dignity and sacrifices of our people? We survived national crises to attain liberty and freedom, prosperity and progress. Why should we now turn the clock back and return to servitude and servility to oblige a presidential candidate?

My dear friends, you who are going to lead this country tomorrow, this is a great lesson in political philosophy. Those in the past who cried out loud for nationalistic, assertive principles of government and opposed creative political cooperation with the United States are the same individuals now banded together, foisting on our people a new type of nationalism, a patriotism to subordinate our interests to those of a single man, simply because they want to down one person, Elpidio Quirino. I knew the personal feeling of hatred, of suspicion, of envy, of bitterness involved in this effort, and our country is being pulled down by this issue, invoking principles when they don't know what principles they are relying on now.

These Nacionalistas of today—where were they when we needed the assistance of the United States? They faced northward, toward the Mikado, and associated with our enemies in the name of the East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. They never wanted America to come back. Now America is asked by these Nacionalistas to be the savior of democracy. What a mockery!

My friends, I do not want to be unkind by making a comparison of the conduct of our leaders during the darkest hour of our history and the attitude of those leading the nation today, but history will show you that those who are now crying loud to the sky for intervention did not want American intervention when we needed it most. As a matter of fact, they openly defied America, and now that America could be their source of power, strength, and influence in this country, they turn their backs and cry: "America, come and save us." All in the name of democracy and patriotism!

I want to stress, my friends, that there will be no fraud; there will be no terrorism by the administration. We don't need that to win. As far as I am concerned, I make the solemn pledge that no matter what is going to be the result of the election I would rather sacrifice everything than besmirch the good name and sovereignty of this government. *(Applause)* My long years of association in our government affairs and the opportunities given me to serve my country and people are too precious to be sacrificed for a brief continuation of the present honor that I now enjoy as the head of this nation.

My friends, I must tell you once more that this bugaboo of fraud and terrorism is being raised to cow the people, to cow the administration, to intimidate—meaning us—that if you don't vote for the American candidate, this country will go to the dogs. The challenge is for you to make use of your intelligence and express your real sentiment—your patriotism and appreciation of the historical development of this country. *(Applause)*

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1953). Extemporaneous speech of President Quirino at the convocation of the student body of the University of the East. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(9), 3836-3842.

Message of President Quirino on Election Day

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On Election Day**

[Delivered on November 9, 1953]

Fellow Countrymen:

The hour of decision is upon us. We are now about to exercise the right to choose the men and women who will direct the destiny of our Republic for the next four years. We have come upon this stage after witnessing the tremendous efforts of all parties concerned to present the issues to the people for their information and enlightenment.

The campaign has not been as calm and dispassionate as the nature of the decision we are called upon to make evidently demands. So I rely upon our people to supply the sober judgment obviously found wanting in the heated partisan appeals.

There have been attempts to make us a trifle self-conscious, to create doubt that we could act wisely and in our interest, unless we were pictured to be special performers for the benefit of a special audience. I would not be talking to you in this manner if I did not believe we were capable of sane judgment irrespective of such attempts.

I would rather that the issues had been limited within the scope of our capacity to settle ourselves, as we are in duty bound so to do under our sovereign status. But the continuous gratuitous appeals for foreign intervention in behalf of disgruntled aspirants to power, to supervise allegedly our elections, have exposed to danger even the simple exercise of that very right which, in fact, is the real essence of our sovereign existence.

I can understand your repugnance towards the idea of intervention, for you can see in the respected status of our country as a sovereign state during its brief existence the positive development of the country's resources to broaden and solidify the basis of the people's wellbeing and happiness and strengthen internal and external security.

Such statue was only a fancied dream a few years ago. It was to change that dream into a reality that we paid a heavy price in blood and treasure in the litany of sufferings and vicissitudes that brought us to what we are today through war and peace. It was to create a land of peace, productivity, health, hope, and dignity that we have since dedicated our energies in planning and prosecuting a program of action and development—whose beneficial results it is now our privilege to enjoy, but which we may soon lose if our own attention at this critical moment and following the elections is shifted to threats of foreign intervention and eventually to reversion to colonial status.

I cannot conceive that our people will want to write off this advance to which you have, all contributed, each in your own measure. But a year ago, this advance was acclaimed in most inspired terms by the very elements who today are loudest in discounting it in order to justify their invitation to foreign intervention as a means to power they could not win solely on their own merits.

I maintain that we can best bring about the prosperity and security of our people by relying more and more on the genius of our race and on our untrammled freedom of initiative rather than on foreign aid extended at the expense of our sovereignty and dignity. We have always welcomed the assistance of true friends of our country. We have time and again invited and in every way encouraged them to invest in mutually beneficial enterprises conducive to national development. But I cannot and shall never wittingly be a party to any plot to revert our country to the ignominious status of a colony of any foreign power. We must not be servile to any demonstration of friendly

interest to us for the dignity of our people and nation. America herself, who has so often shown such interest, will help and respect us more when she knows we are determined to safeguard our rights as a sovereign people.

Hasty and intemperate conclusions made to signify a voluntary surrender of our sovereignty and dignity as a nation—these shall always be met with a definite and decisive denial on our part. The Filipino character and our heroic tradition as a people laboring hard to stand on our feet with dignity and self-respect—these, too, we must vow to uphold. The culture and advancement we have attained and the progressive spirit amply demonstrated in the building of this nation, it is our supreme duty to promote and preserve. No backward step to affect in any way the onward march of our nation to progress and prosperity should mar our decision at the polls. Rather, we should exhibit bold courage and determination to march on to further progress and achievement by the decisive use of our right of suffrage and initiative. Self-reliance, not servility, should mark this privileged hour for us all.

My friends, I have given more than forty years of my life contributing, in all instances, to help build this nation and enhance its name and prestige. I mean to consecrate during the remaining period allowed me by the Constitution all my energies and efforts to round off not merely a public career but a program of nation-building for stability and permanence to insure the lasting security of our democratic institutions.

Nobody can say that, during my whole career in public service, I have ever personally taken advantage of my official position for selfish ends. I have dared to submit my record to the severest public scrutiny upon the acceptance of my nomination for re-election. I hope I shall be vindicated from the systematic campaign of vilification and character assassination to which I have been continually subjected by my political adversaries. I have great confidence in the good judgment and sense of justice of our people as regards my personal stake in these elections. But for the country's sake and its continued progress, prosperity, and happiness, I urge a spirit of patriotism to guide our countrymen in the exercise of the sovereign right as citizens and to use only judgment, good judgment, on the achievements of their Republic in the first seven years of its existence.

The decision that we are called upon to make tomorrow, Election Day, should be a decision not for retreat and surrender but for freedom and progress—and on top of this, confidence in the ability of our own Republic to live a continuing life of dignity and honor.

Fellow countrymen, I enjoin you all to refrain from any act that may mar the normal conduct of the elections. We can best make our decisions when devoid of passion and violence. Chaos and confusion, charges of fraud and terrorism, are sowing consternation, which is a handy excuse for those who would revert us to colonial status. There is increasing evidence that some elements, foreign and even native, are fanning the fire of hate, prejudice, and division among ourselves in order to promote this nefarious motive. May God deliver our Republic from the dangers of intemperate political quarrels productive of fratricidal passionate extremes. There must come a time to everyone, even to the most irrational die-hards seeking to lead this nation, to realize that our happy destiny rests on the combined courage, sobriety, and wisdom of our people in this critical hour of decision. We must make of November 10 a day of self-dedication to the honor and glory of our Republic. May God guide you and bless you all in your solemn moment at the polls!

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1953). Election day message of the President November 9, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(11), 4809-4811.

Message of President Quirino on Thanksgiving Day

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On Thanksgiving Day**

[Delivered on November 25, 1953]

It is one of our most happy traditions that we set aside one special day of the year for united expression of gratitude to Divine Providence.

This is not to say that we have no occasion to be thankful every day. But it reflects well on us to give thought to the blessings we enjoy as a nation if only to keep ourselves and our country continually worthy to sustain the obligations they impose.

We have weathered what has been widely noted at home and abroad as a trying year in our life as a young democracy.

We are close to the threshold of a new year and a new administration, eager to face the new problems and opportunities they will present, with our moral and material resources not only unimpaired but reinforced.

We can pray that we may continue to meet those problems and opportunities with becoming humility, consistent with a wholesome reliance on divine aid and guidance.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1953). President Quirino's Thanksgiving Day message, November 25, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(11), 4814.

Message of President Quirino on Bonifacio Day

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On Bonifacio Day**

[Released on November 28, 1953]

It is not only proper but imperative that the observance of Bonifacio Day this year take on a more militant meaning.

We have always looked up to the Great Plebeian as a radiant, rallying light that led us on through the dark years in our heroic struggle for freedom. For it was the pure and passionate nationalistic spirit of Bonifacio, together with that of other Filipino patriots, which steeled our sinews, infused the fiery love of the native land in our souls, and bound us as one people to secure and defend our liberty. Thus, we are proud today of our independence and the success that we have thusfar made in making this Republic respected if not envied by the whole world. But we should not falter nor slacken in our vigilance over our had-won freedom. We should always keep ringing in our hearts Bonifacio's liberty cry in Balintawak, and bravely show in all our deeds that we are determined to live and die for the preservation of Philippine independence and sovereignty.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1953). President Quirino's message on Bonifacio Day, November 29, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(11), 4814-4815.

Speech of President Quirino at the Squibb Building Inauguration

**Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Squibb Building Inauguration**

[Delivered on December 5, 1953]

I didn't come here simply to participate in your ceremony to inaugurate this costly building which, according to the information you have just furnished me, all amount to about P3 million. The faith and future involved in the erection of this building is what to me counts most. Your faith in establishing this branch—one of the 95 branches, I think, that you have established all over the world—in the proper and safe development of your business afforded by our government's protection, inspiration, and encouragement, is a compliment to our government; and your vision of expansion to the extent of exporting Philippine-made products that can well be distributed henceforth from this branch, is another significant point.

Yes, I am responsible for hustling you and your associates so that you may establish this building and stay here, not only because of your desire to develop your industry but in a spirit of cooperation in the economic development of this country.

I was very eager to see the results of our planning for general economic development. We have long wished and have made positive and even constitutional steps to afford protection to foreign capital, especially American capital invested in our economic development in our desire to accelerate our national economy and secure our financial stability. Personally, it was my ambition to be able to exhibit achievements of my administration in the form of expanded industrial activities which, up to a few years ago, were doubtful of positive results.

We have always been regarded primarily and perhaps for an indefinite period, as an agricultural country. We have to struggle hard and employ special efforts to show that we cannot remain an agricultural country for an indefinite period and that there are possibilities of industrializing this country. In establishing the basic industries, many of which are now completed and in operation, we had nothing in mind except to provide the government initiative to be followed by private enterprises in the exploitation of our industrial resources by making available cheap electric power and by developing the materials that are necessary in industrialization program.

To some extent we have succeeded in establishing those basic industries and, more than that, we have also been able to show the whole world that we have sufficient resources with which to help industrialize this country. It was during the last two or three years that we had to invite technical men, both local and foreign, to scour our own country and examine our soil, our waterfalls, our lakes, our rivers, our mountains, and even our skies in an effort to find out what are the essential industrial raw materials that could be utilized in our program of industrialization.

And, during this period of two or three years, we have been able to gather sufficient data and materials which can now form the basis of a program of industrialization for a known period, not merely as a trial but as an initiative to a serious program of industrialization.

In establishing our basic industries, we thought at the beginning that we should provide not only the requirements that are demanded by present industrial activities of those establishments which were already in operation after the war and even before the war, but also to provide leeway for future expansion in case it will be necessary to expand on the new industries we are going to establish.

I am gratified to have found out that during the last two or three years, we found occasion not only to give encouragement to the industrialists who are willing to take the risk in making investments in this country, but also to inspire in them the response that they have shown, one of which is your company's response to our invitation.

It is, therefore, one of my greatest pleasures to observe that during the last two or three years, we have not only succeeded in inviting foreign capital to make investments here but have also cultivated the feeling of faith and loyalty to our people and our institutions that have urged them to establish themselves permanently. This is one of the things I will bear in mind as one of those I have been able to succeed in driving home into the heart and soul not only of our local investors but of outsiders, who have found occasion to cooperate with our general economic development program.

This establishment, therefore, stands as an evidence of faith in this government and of your conviction that we can well protect foreign investments and that you found here a people ready and willing and congenial to your respective activities towards economic development.

I therefore feel happy to be with you this evening and to hear reiterations of your faith in this government and the expression of satisfaction over your dealings with the people of this country who, I am sure, are just waiting for an opportunity to cooperate towards our economic stability, with local as well as with foreign investors whom we have invited heretofore.

Mr. Green, I shall cherish and keep always in mind the expressions of faith in our country and faith in my encouragement. This time, it is your encouragement that I need so that we can continue in any other capacity to develop this country economically and financially in order that we can all derive mutual benefits in our association. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). President Quirino speaks at Squibb Building Inauguration, December 5, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(12), 5324-5326.

MESSAGES TO CONGRESS

State-of-the-Nation Message of President Quirino to the Joint Session of the Congress of the Philippines

**State-of-the-Nation Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the Joint Session of the Congress of the Philippines**

[Delivered on January 24, 1949]

“The Most Urgent Aim of the Administration”

Mr. PRESIDENT, Mr. SPEAKER, GENTLEMEN OF THE CONGRESS:

I am happy indeed to meet you in this historic hall. Its rehabilitation is the most recent evidence of our efforts at rapid reconstruction. We agreed to reconstruct the Legislative Building and the Finance and Agriculture buildings yonder only last September.

Today is our homecoming to this hall. It is my hope that before long the ruins and scars of battle in this hallowed area will disappear.

I have had the pleasant experience of working with you during your last legislative session. But I have not had as yet the formal occasion to thank you all for the splendid cooperation you have been giving me from the initial months of my administration. Without that cooperation I could not have carried on. I am in hopes that during the sessions just starting, we shall continue to work together with understanding and devotion, to the end that we may go ahead with the task of nation-building without unnecessary interruptions and distractions. This is an election year. We have barely ten months before most of us will have to account for our acts to the people. We have to present a work well done.

As you already know, I ascended the Presidency under the most depressing and distressing circumstances. But deep in my heart I was determined to carry on silently the work so auspiciously begun by my illustrious predecessor, our dear friend the late President Roxas, on our common venture to lay the foundations of this new Republic.

RESTORATION OF PEACE

My first concern was to complete the restoration of peace and order and to strengthen our people's morale and confidence in the government. My first act in this direction was to order the reduction in the price of Class E rice, then selling at one peso, to eighty-five centavos a ganta. This order reduced the cost not only of other grades of rice but also of other essential commodities whose price structure is dependent on the cost of rice.

Then I made the first of my visits to the troubled areas in Central Luzon. Here the dissident elements were terrorizing the population with kidnappings and depredations. They were preying for food and other necessities upon the poor people of Pampanga, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac, the very people whose interests they were pretending to protect, whose welfare they were professing to promote. That tour elicited the offer of cooperation from the leader of the dissident elements. It resulted eventually, with your concurrence, in the issuance of an Amnesty Proclamation.

During the period of the Amnesty, the people of Central Luzon, especially those seeking shelter in the *poblaciones* and those hiding in the hills, found it safe once more to return to their homes and resume the cultivation of their farms. No less than six thousand one hundred hectares in the troubled areas that had lain idle for four or five years were planted to rice. Upon the expiration of the proclamation period, the misguided elements resumed their defiance of the government. They began again to harass the people during harvest time. But the government, through an effective Constabulary campaign, has been able not only to break their organization, driving

the remnants to the deep recesses of the Sierra Madre, but to secure the biggest rice harvest since the outbreak of the war despite a drought and other natural calamities.

The Amnesty also served to unmask the dissidents. It exposed their communistic inspiration and direction. It uncovered their real purpose to overthrow the government, which they had cloaked by agitation for so-called social and agrarian reforms. Realizing this as they never had before, our law-abiding citizens gave the government all their loyalty and support in the subsequent policy it followed of going after the dissidents with all its strength and power to uphold the law.

I am glad to report to you that the sporadic depredations of these outlaws in isolated areas of the country are but the last paroxysms of a dying movement.

With the recent surrender of two hundred Moro outlaws in Jolo, the only threat of disorder in the traditional trouble area in the Sulu Archipelago during many regimes, has also disappeared.

The government shall continue its vigilance against potential disruptive elements which impair the efficiency of our productive efforts. We will not tolerate further interference with the steady prosecution of our social and economic program.

SOCIAL AMELIORATION

My second immediate objective was to provide for relief to the people in the troubled areas.

By executive order I created the Action Committee on Social Amelioration. I charged it with the duty to go to the field and minister to the needy, the hungry, the homeless and the sick, to victims of dissident, depredations and violence. I placed the four million pesos appropriated by Congress for peace and order and relief at the disposal of the Committee.

The Action Committee has carried out a program of social amelioration on a systematic and comprehensive scale. Some 700,000 needy people in thirteen provinces and chartered cities secured direct assistance food, clothing, medicine and, in some cases, direct cash loans. These loans amounted to P205,000 and were given to tenant-farmers in Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Pampanga, Bataan, Rizal, Laguna and Quezon. In addition, the Committee distributed P330,000 worth of seeds, mainly palay, for distribution to farmers to augment the production of rice. Other food crops have likewise been planted. To provide employment to long unemployed people, the construction of public works projects in the troubled area was speeded up. In order to encourage the establishment of homes for the landless, the acquisition of big landed estates to be parceled for resale to *bonafide* tenants at cost was also accelerated. Besides the purchase of thirty-five *haciendas* comprising 161.3 million square meters valued at 13.3 million pesos, we are acquiring additional estates in Arayat and Sta. Ana, Pampanga, and in Jalajala, Rizal, for the same purpose. These proposed new acquisitions involve an area of about 49.3 million square meters valued approximately at 1.2 million pesos.

The social amelioration program has been extended to other portions of the archipelago as far as Mindanao and Sulu, and has become a major policy of the Administration.

By the approval of Republic Act No. 304, we have solved the long standing demand among our thousands of government employees for backpay, under conditions which will do justice to the beneficiaries without unduly straining the finances of our government. By Acts Nos. 312 and 315, we have increased the minimum salaries of teachers, enlisted men and other small government employees. We have also elevated the status of the nurses in the Army by the creation under Act No. 203 of the Nurses Corps in the Medical Service.

Republic Act No. 312 provides for the standardization of teachers' salaries on the basis of occupational assignments and educational qualifications. The 1948-1949 Appropriation Act had already been passed when this law was

enacted. It will be my concern to make adequate provision in our next budget in order to carry out within our financial capacity the standardized rates provided for by this law.

We have further improved the lot of temporary government employees and workers, including those in the corporations owned or controlled by the government, regardless of status, by giving them fifteen days vacation leave and fifteen days sick leave with full pay each year.

This past year additional relief accrued to our people from a substantial increase in employment. Wages increased two per cent, while the cost of living, based on the price index of essential commodities, dropped 39 per cent, a most gratifying development. Verily, the rising level of earning and the decreasing cost of living are converging upon a point of economic stability favorable to the great masses of our people.

We have obtained from the United States Government provision for the hospitalization of our veterans. Our government has extended to our heroes of the war and the resistance such benefits as we have been able initially to afford. At our invitation, a mission of the United States Veterans Administration will arrive in Manila next month to look further into the possibility of improving the assistance that has been given to Filipino veterans.

We have warded off epidemics. Large-scale immunization work has been accomplished. Medical care and facilities have been extended. Traveling clinics have been established. Hospitals and puericulture centers have been rehabilitated. We are taking steps to introduce on a big scale in our country the latest advances in medical science including new drugs and vaccines for the treatment or prevention of leprosy and tuberculosis.

We have solved the heretofore recurrent school crisis. Nine thousand additional classes were opened throughout the country. We have made possible the admission of every child of school age seeking entrance to our public schools. For the first time in the history of civil administration in this country there was no such thing as a school crisis this school year.

To minimize delay in the adjudication of cases, we have expanded our judiciary by increasing the number of judges. We now have a full complement of the Judiciary, which has been completely reorganized under the Judiciary Act of 1948.

ASSESSMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

We have taken a new census of the country. After the long and destructive war, it was necessary to assess our resources for recovery and to plan for continued growth. The report shows our total population to be over 19 million as of October first, last. It indicates that we have sufficient manpower to carry out our program national development.

The Administration is attaching particular importance to the adequacy of the coverage and the quality of the results produced by that census. We hope that it will give us a correct basis from which to draw a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the manpower resources of our country.

We must provide at the earliest practicable time facilities for efficient utilization of these resources. We need a more diversified occupational pattern, a reduction in the volume and duration of unemployment, an increase in the worker's share in a bigger national output. We must insure those social welfare benefits so necessary to the attainment of full stature of a self-respecting citizen—education, recreation, security against illness and the infirmities of old age.

RECONSTRUCTION

During the last twelve months, we have rehabilitated 25,260 kilometers of roads, built 663 kilometers of new roads, constructed or rehabilitated 605 school houses, erected or rehabilitated 381 public buildings, constructed or repaired 2,241 temporary and six permanent bridges, built or rehabilitated irrigation systems, at a total cost of 68.8 million

pesos. This sum came from our general appropriations, from funds obtained from the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation, and from the Philippine War Damage Commission.

NATIONAL ECONOMY

We have balanced our national budget. We shall again have at the end of the current fiscal year a sizeable surplus. But it is important that we continue with vigor our efforts to increase the revenue collections and to limit expenses to the most essential needs of the public service.

We have greatly improved the economic and financial conditions of the country. Through the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation, loans amounting to P90,480,136 have been granted for reconstruction and rehabilitation purposes. These loans have gone to farmers, tenants, industrialists, builders of homes and other elements assisting in the general economic uplift.

We have set up the Central Bank to expand our credit, stabilize our currency and provide a new source of financing for the agricultural and industrial development of the nation.

With the operation of the Central Bank, we expect to maintain our domestic monetary stability, the international value of the peso, the free convertibility of the peso into United States dollars and other freely convertible currencies, and the promotion of a rising level of production, employment and real income. The greatest service of the Bank to the growth and prosperity of the national economy will lie in its use of its prerogatives under the law to create that financial environment in which the growth of sound productive enterprises and the creation of a diversified pattern of production will be greatly encouraged. It is an obligation of the Bank to promote and increase the rate of savings and channel them into productive investment outlets.

We have taken a long step forward in the financing of our industrial development. We have successfully concluded negotiations with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a loan covering our dollar needs in the construction of two of the four hydro-electric water power projects intended to spark our industrialization program. A definite commitment by the Bank in the sum of fifteen million dollars has been made. But that amount will be adequate only for the Ambuklao and Lumot projects. Further negotiations will be conducted for the financing of the Itogon and the Maria Cristina projects, particularly the latter. The intensification of the agricultural and industrial development of Mindanao occupies a top priority in our program. The commitment thus far made is not only a favorable sign ushering in finally the implementation of our plans of economic development, but a significantly successful test of the solvency of our foreign credit, for it was accepted only after a thorough examination of our resources and development plans by a board of economists of international authority.

We have effected export control to retain for our own use articles and materials in short supply here, and import control to conserve our dollar resources so necessary for the expansion of our own productive enterprises.

If in the process greater participation by our own countrymen in the import trade is fostered, a greater gain will have been achieved. The import control order is not a finality. If it be found that supplies limited by the order will not adequately meet legitimate and justifiable demand the satisfaction of which will serve the national interest, increased quotas will be authorized. But the fundamental objective of conserving the foreign exchange resources so that they may be available for economic development and of giving impetus to domestic production will loom large in the consideration of questions involving the relaxation of these controls. Our means and our remedies will be productive rather than speculative or merely restrictive.

We have yet to expand our foreign markets and cultivate and stabilize them with the continuous flow of exportable products in improved and standardized form.

OUR PRESTIGE ABROAD

With special pride I call your attention to the fact that today the Philippines has the friendship and respect of all nations. Our international relations have become stronger. Although the United States continues to be the only country that maintains an embassy here, eight other countries now have legations, and twenty-four nations in all have set up eight consulates general, fourteen consulates and four consular agencies. For our part, we have diplomatic establishments' in eight nations and consular representatives in seventeen cities. We have recently established Philippine legations in London, Rome, Madrid, Nanking, Buenos Aires and a special mission in Tokyo. Our participations in international conferences, especially in the United Nations and its various agencies, and in interparliamentary unions and scientific and cultural conventions, have been conspicuous with constructive contributions to world understanding and peace.

The bi-partisan policy in foreign affairs which we adopted at the beginning of our international life as a Republic has resulted in effective representation abroad and virtually unanimous support at home. Our delegates have been honored with appointments to positions of leadership in many international conferences in which we have participated. The nations have shown an increasing respect for the integrity and wisdom of our counsel.

Our special relationship with the United States has been productive of goodwill invaluable to our growth as a young nation. We have shared in the rejoicing of the people of the United States in the re-election of President Truman and in the return of a Congress sympathetic to his liberal program. It was President Truman who proclaimed the independence of the Philippines barely two years ago. His continuance as the head of that great nation insures an abiding American concern over the future of our young Republic.

With the entire East threatened by the onrushing tide of Communism, the Philippines, the most strategic crossroads linking the West and the East, remains the one safe, attractive home for free men in our part of the world, a haven for the masses of humanity fleeing from that flood.

MORALE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

I have reorganized the Cabinet. New members with proven ability, experience and integrity have been appointed. I have elevated the lady Commissioner of Social Welfare to Cabinet rank, giving to that position the importance commensurate with the new tasks assigned to it of carrying out the policy of the government on social amelioration. I have advanced in both the judicial and the executive departments, men of high standard of efficiency, thus giving encouragement to those in the lower ranks who have shown merit and loyalty to the service. I have opened opportunities for younger men to prepare themselves for high responsibilities in the public service. I am determined to pursue a line of action that will insure to our people honest and efficient service and will provide full enjoyment of the liberty and equal opportunity that we have dearly fought for and won, in peace and in war, at home and abroad.

We have laid the foundations of a stable, efficient, honored and dignified government. And we have brought it nearer to our people. We have been taking every opportunity to talk directly to them in their cities and towns, to observe their manner of living, to hear them discuss their needs, express their criticisms, their hopes, their aspirations.

We have strengthened further their confidence in our sincerity and integrity. We have demonstrated our willingness to invite and face public scrutiny. We have eliminated whatever evils have been uncovered. We have proved the primacy of public interest over party, group or personal claims. More than as the supreme head of the Liberal Party, in accordance with whose rules I am "the authorized spokesman of its decisions and policies," as President of the Republic I declare this to be the unequivocal policy and determination of the Administration.

I cannot believe that God will not allow us to maintain this kind of government. We must consecrate ourselves and all our efforts to its attainment and dare while we pray, and pray while we dare.

TASKS AHEAD

Let me turn now to the immediate tasks before us.

PRODUCTION AND SOCIAL AMELIORATION

The most important and urgent aim of this administration at this stage is increased production and social amelioration. We cannot indefinitely ride on the foam of foreign charity and friendship. We must produce our own immediate necessities and raise, by the sweat of our brow, the lot of the men who toil on the farms and in the factories. We shall, where necessary, effect changes in the national economy to achieve this end. Our responsibility is no less urgent to those displaced and rendered homeless by public calamities.

Social security measures are under preparation by the Social Security Study Commission which I created for the purpose. The complexity and far-reaching consequences to our social life of such measures call for the closest study of their provisions. I urge you to approve adequate legislation providing for more health and housing facilities to banish our urban slums, to eliminate those fire hazards that are a daily menace to life and health, especially among the poorer sections of our towns and cities. We need more practical measures to implement our objective of giving our citizenry the maximum benefits to be derived from the development of our agricultural and industrial potentialities.

This is the age of the common man. This government has long stopped preaching. It now goes out to the field with an Action Committee and with a sizeable fund for its use in order to improve the lot of the common man. The activities of the Committee are only in their initial stage. We want to follow up the program of social amelioration with greater intensity and give the masses a Straight Deal. This is my all-absorbing and consuming passion. We have to insure a standard of living in the farms, in the factories, in the homes that will be more in keeping and commensurate with our progress and advancement.

VETERANS AND GUERILLAS

The pensions to war widows, orphans and disabled veterans must continue with adequate funds therefore. The nation owes an eternal debt of gratitude to them. Their sacrifices shall not be in vain. I beseech the Congress to give the matter immediate consideration.

EMERGENCY CURRENCY AND GUERILLA NOTES

The redemption of emergency currency and guerrilla notes is a legal and moral obligation of this Government.

Our people are not concerned whether the funds for the purpose come from our Government or from the United States. The amount of 30 million pesos earmarked for the purpose and an additional ten million pesos made available by our government are insufficient to cover at par the full amount of P112,951,907 found by the Emergency Currency Board as having been duly issued .

It is necessary that we evolve a redemption scheme, an equitable solution. But a quick solution is imperative.

LABOR

There has been a notable readiness on the part of our laboring class to cooperate in the constructive activities of the country. The minimum wage for our laborers must be standardized and stabilized. I have urged the Labor-Management Advisory Board, in which capital and labor are equally represented, to submit a schedule of wages applicable in the different industries and localities.

The Labor-Management Advisory Board is now studying the problem of wage standards in different regions. We must forestall wasteful periodic demands for revision of wages and the consequent uneconomic stoppages in our machinery of production. We need regulative rather than prohibitive measures against strikes. Both labor and capital must cooperate to achieve this end.

The salaries of employees in the lower brackets must also be improved. Private enterprises are offering better opportunities, and the Government is beginning to lose its most experienced personnel in the competition.

PUBLIC HEALTH

The outlook for tuberculosis control in our country by the use of the vaccine called "Bacillus Calmette Guerin (BCG) is giving us high hopes; It is opening a new horizon to the work of reducing tuberculosis incidence to the minimum. Our authorities are keeping abreast of latest developments in medical research in other countries. We are a member of the World Health Organization through which the most recent medical discoveries and techniques are being made available to our people. While we should be discriminating in the adoption or application of remedies recently discovered, we should not lose time to utilize them to relieve our people once their efficacy is proven.

In the construction of roads I recommend that we provide sufficient funds to facilitate the building of cement or asphalt roads not only for reasons of economy but also for the health of our people. Our dusty roads are the causes of so many ailments afflicting them, especially tuberculosis.

In view of the lack of physicians in many of our communities, I recommend the immediate study and approval of legislation providing for pre-paid medical service to our population which cannot afford medical assistance, especially those in remote rural communities.

EDUCATION

Our educational policy must be reviewed and revised for closer coordination with the objectives of our proposed development program, without sacrificing the traditional aim of providing a liberal culture basic to the good life. I hope that the Joint Educational Committee of the Congress engaged in this study will be able to evolve a revision of the school system more adaptable to and in keeping with our national requirements.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

I urge total economic mobilization. Our economic structure should be built from below, making the foundation firm and accessible to the general population so that everyone can contribute to and share in the benefits of our material progress.

We must increase on the one hand our receipts from exports of improving quality, and decrease on the other the amounts of our import bills. The display and sale of Philippine-made goods must be given emphasis to balance the entrenched position of imported articles. We must not only produce more, but must educate our people to consume more home products. National protectionism in this regard is a legitimate ambition of every self-respecting independent nation.

The achievement of the first objective of increased production for export requires improvement of the cost conditions of our existing export industries, the development of new export products, the creation and cultivation of new markets for our export trade.

We have heretofore overlooked or neglected our immediate neighbors in orienting our economic ties abroad.

Our search for new markets and the intensification of our promotional activities should consider the hitherto closed areas of Latin America, Europe and the Near East.

To achieve the second objective, we must give priority to the development of economic projects which can be brought up to the producing point within a relatively short time and will enable us to reduce the amount of dollars spent on imports.

Now is our opportunity to initiate the adjustment of our economy to maintain a stable, high level of employment without unduly exposing our program to the' dangers of unpredictable violent fluctuations of demand for basic export crops in the foreign markets.

I shall urge the members of the National Economic Council to give priority consideration to the Government's short term development program. It should serve as the coordinating authority to knit together into a harmonious whole, bank credit policy, government, credit and fiscal policy, and developmental investment policy. The Council will be clothed with authority to approve and schedule projects, to allocate on a fair basis the funds or credit which the Central Bank may from time to time mobilize to the loan portfolios of government lending agencies, to keep them within the approved pattern of allocation of available capital and the limitations established by law. We will draw upon our full credit capacity, backed by the guaranty of the National Government, to secure funds for this program.

GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES

There is need for coordination of the policies and operation of our government corporations to increase their usefulness to the national economy. It may be necessary to' re-examine their structure and organization, their policies and their objectives, the scope and nature of their activities, and to gear all these to new goals set by a coherent development program. I recommend serious consideration of the advisability of creating a national central body or department that can more effectively direct, supervise and control the operations of government corporations. The coordination and consolidation of these corporations under one directing authority will place under unified direction assets worth over one billion pesos and corporate net worth valued at over 300 million pesos.

In our economic mobilization, we should give priority to our already established major industries. The abaca industry needs replanting and expansion. The tobacco industry must be revived and its foreign markets reopened. The industrial processes developed for the coconut industry must be fully exploited. The prewar sugar industry must be restored and markets for excess production over domestic demand and the United States import quota limitations must be found. I created the Sugar Rehabilitation and Readjustment Commission to advise the government on the proper measures to be adopted to revitalize and stabilize the sugar industry. In due time I will submit measures to realize these objectives.

It is necessary that we cast our eyes and exhaust our resourcefulness to secure the fuller utilization of our other natural resources and possibilities. We must speed up the digging of our mines, hasten the exploitation of our water power, and stimulate the search for new uses of our varied agricultural products heretofore not efficiently or commercially utilized.

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The main problem of the country today is still to find ways and means of increasing production not only of palay and corn which constitute the basic cereal foods of the Filipino people, but also of other food crops, as well as meat, milk and other livestock products, fish and other foodstuffs. More as a temporary solution of the worst rice crisis since liberation, I created the Rice Emergency Board which controls the procurement and distribution of locally-produced rice now and for the next two years. I fixed the price of this commodity for the two-year period on an attractive basis for the direct benefit of the producers in order to encourage the production and steady supply of the cereal. Let us conduct a campaign for increased production, at least one more cavan of rice or corn per hectare of the' thousands we are now cultivating. The plans are advanced for the setting up of a fertilizer plant to encourage larger agricultural production. I recommend that more appropriations be set aside for the construction of new irrigation systems and the repair of those already in existence.

In the face of a persistent world shortage of rice" production, the Philippines cannot and should not be content to remain a rice importing nation. We are adopting measures to increase domestic production as rapidly as possible and help, incidentally, to conserve our foreign exchange resources. Independently of other recommendations of the Rice Emergency Commission, I have instructed the National Development Company to develop two 10,000-hectare areas for rice and peanut production: one in Cotabato and the other in Mindoro. Work in Cotabato is under way. Sixteen hundred hectares are now under cultivation. In fact we have a handsome initial harvest of 130,000 pesos worth of

peanuts this season. This is but the beginning of the developmental work in agriculture planned in Mindanao. Similar preparatory work is being done in Mindoro. This program will be carried out in all parts of the country where large tracts of public land may be available for rice production until this unwholesome dependence upon outside supplies shall have been solved. It will insure abundance and conserve the 60 million pesos we remit abroad annually for our rice importation.

We must turn our concentrated attention to the development of Mindanao. Something must be done without loss of time to convert that vast region into a real empire of wealth. I recommend a general program of road construction to encourage production and communication. The establishment of the planned hydro-electric and fertilizer plant in Maria Cristina Falls will give the proper agricultural and industrial incentives. Locust pest is hampering the agricultural development of Northern Mindanao and even as far as Bohol and Cebu. I also recommend that sufficient appropriation be set aside to eradicate this winged enemy to our increased production.

We are having difficulties in the proper storage of rice, tobacco, copra and sugar. The construction of private or bonded warehouses for these products should be facilitated and encouraged.

Fishing is one of the most promising and flourishing industries of the country. But we are destroying this rich resource by the wanton use of dynamite in our sea and river fishing. This must be stopped. Let us put more teeth to the law on fishing.

Act No. 2932 on the exploitation of our oil deposits is now regarded as obsolete. We should give more facilities for the exploration and exploitation of our oil deposits. This is a promising industry. The world demand for oil is unlimited. I have sent abroad a special mission to study not only oil legislation but also methods and procedure of exploitation. I hope that our representatives will be helpful in the revision of our legislation on the subject.

RETAIL TRADE

We are still a long way from our goal of wresting control of our retail trade.

No government in the world can merely legislate any people or any nation into business superiority and prosperity. But both our government and our people can cooperate to attain this natural and legitimate aim; the government, by providing a coordinate scheme of incentives to tide new enterprises over initial difficulties; and the people, by adopting a more courageous outlook and using opportunities and privileges with religious attention to attendant obligations.

We shall continue the organization of PRATRA branches and agencies and of the consumers cooperative associations, as procurement and distributing agencies for their members, and encourage the organization of provincial trading corporations to minimize profiteering.

PUBLIC FINANCE

We have progressed in our revenue collections but we are still far from our ultimate goals. Those goals will have been reached when our financial position will have so improved as to enable us to provide adequately for all public services.

We should have more effective legislation to encourage honest tax-paying and curtail tax evasion. The national revenues can be increased not only by raising the taxes not restrictive to new industrial enterprises but also by properly preventing tax evasion.

NATIONAL SECURITY

We are doing all in our power to train and organize our manpower resources for the national defense. But trained and courageous soldiers are not all that make an army. We must provide these men with the necessary equipment and supplies within the financial capacity of the government.

We need to expand our military training. What we have been able to provide thus far is not adequate to produce a citizen army that can be mobilized on short notice and strong enough for national defense. It would be more productive of better results and more economical to encourage military training throughout our schools, colleges and universities rather than maintain a big standing army.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

We will continue to adhere to the United Nations and we reaffirm our faith in its capacity to adjust international conflicts for the permanent peace of the world.

In the light of political developments in Southeast Asia, and the turbulent conditions in our immediate vicinity, the Philippines should further strengthen its position. Its leadership must be for constructive freedom and peace and must insure the promotion and protection of the interests it shares in common with these states as well as its own.

We should adopt, for the security and stability of the Philippines, stricter safeguards against the entry or infiltration of subversive elements. Our home policy for peace and order must be strong. There must be national discipline. The government must be respected, its laws obeyed. We cannot expect outsiders to respect our government if we do not respect it ourselves. We now enjoy that respect at home and abroad.

FACING THE FUTURE

Looking thus at the record since the establishment of our Republic and forward beyond the horizons of our charted course, I am deeply encouraged. We can face the future confident in our capacity to bring abundance, security and peace to our people, through the tested constitutional processes of freedom and democracy which constitute our enduring allegiance and loyalty.

In spite of tremendous odds, our progress and the continually growing respect and friendship of other nations confirm our potentialities and active growth in stature. They sustain, our broadening role in world affairs, particularly those affecting the Eastern world, definitely directing us towards a strategic position of creative influence. We need continually to so build and discipline ourselves that we may attain and deserve the privilege of its ministry. Our opportunity to this end is to muster and organize all our resources, preserve our credit and prestige abroad and guard against their dissipation at home.

I call on every man and child of this nation to share in the privilege of the great tasks before us. I appeal for the utmost courage, wisdom, vision and dedication in taking up the challenge of our common objectives.

When I assumed office, my only pledge was what I recited in my oath. I meant every word of it. My policy has been simple. I have had only two main immediate objectives: the restoration of peace and order, and the strengthening of the morale of the people and their faith and confidence in the government.

I pledge to you, gentlemen of the Congress, my full cooperation in the greater tasks ahead, convinced that with Divine Guidance we will attain the goals we have set for ourselves to promote and safeguard — the welfare of our country and our contribution to the peace and happiness of the world.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). State-of-the-Nation message of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, to the Joint Session of the Congress of the Philippines, at 4 p.m., January 24, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 45(1)*, 153-170.

Budget message of President Quirino to the Congress of the Philippines, submitted on February 8, 1949

**Budget Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the Congress of the Philippines**

[Submitted on February 8, 1949]

GENTLEMEN :

Pursuant to the provisions of section 9 (1), Article VI, of the Constitution, I am submitting herewith the Budget of the National Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1950.

The following is a resume of the Budget:

**Address of President Quirino before the U.S. House of Representatives Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the U.S. House of Representatives**

[Delivered on August 10, 1949]

MR. SPEAKER, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

It is a rare honor and privilege for any man to appear before this august Body of the distinguished Representatives of the American people. Thirty years ago I occupied a seat in the House of Representatives of my country. This fact makes me feel at home in your midst. As the head of a new State that owes its existence to American wisdom and idealism, I am filled with a mingled sense of gratitude and humility because of the special, circumstances that have brought me to this mighty rostrum.

The Independence Act you passed in 1934 as our charter of liberty has well directed our course as a nation. During the transition period between 1934 and the actual grant of independence on July 4, 1946, events of the most far-reaching significance to the world transpired. That period provided the greatest test ever served on our people and it revealed to us that quality of the freedom that we had been fighting for, and to America and the world at large, the character of the nation that has become its recipient and beneficiary.

The whole world has plunged into the most destructive war known in history. The Filipinos bled with the rest of humanity in that titanic struggle. Thank God, we have survived. Instead of succumbing to desperation, following the untold devastation of our country and the decimation of our population, we have come out stronger, fortified in the blessings of democracy and freedom. We have risen from our prostration disposed to anticipate and face the dangers of another possible world conflict. And we are determined to carry on and to fight to the last man on the side of America if freedom, our freedom and your freedom, should ever again be menaced and the democratic way of life imperiled.

Immediately after the liberation of our country in 1945, we thought that the Philippines could not be rebuilt in less than ten years, that it would take much longer for us to be able to stand on our own feet. But I can say with pardonable pride that the stride we have made during the last three years has more than eloquently vindicated our capacity to bear our burdens and obligations as a free and independent people.

While many countries in the world are still at a loss to reconstruct or rehabilitate themselves, bewildered in the face of uncertainties produced by their troubled surroundings, the Philippines today stands in the midst of a most distressed region as one stable unit, a veritable haven of many people in the Far East, whose liberties have been threatened.

We have been concentrating our attention on our internal development. We have not lost a single moment and opportunity to enhance the stabilization of our economy. We have adopted a new ideology based on total economic mobilization of our country as a means of providing our people a fuller life of substance and contentment, in our determined endeavor to improve our living standards and in that manner contain and counteract the onrush of a totalitarian system battering down the doors of our neighbors. We thank America for the opportunities given us to develop ourselves and our country, and for the assistance and guidance we know the United States is disposed to lend to us in our future undertaking. The new Republic of the Philippines was born in self reliance and we are determined to build it on solid rock. We cannot do otherwise if we are to deserve the distinction of being America's original handiwork in the sphere of freedom in Asia.

I have come to your country in furtherance of mutual understanding between your country and mine—for the preservation not only of freedom and prosperity but also of the peace of the world in our part of the globe. I am

positive of your concern in this regard. I am emboldened by the fact that President Truman has graciously invited me to have an opportunity of presenting our side of the understanding.

I hope that this mightiest Body of legislatures in the world will have timely and effective cooperation in our efforts to achieve the right promise of that understanding, and enable us to contribute in our modest way to the fulfillment of the high mission of the United States in the advancement and preservation of world peace and security to all liberty loving peoples. This has become an important phase of our Philippine foreign policy. It has been inspired no less by a deep sense of obligation that we owe to this great country that has given us freedom which I know America will do her best to help protect and develop.

My country is determined to succeed. My people are confident that you will continue to extend them every possible support to succeed. Your people and mine, by a fluke of destiny, have become partners in a most glorious adventure which it will be to your interest, as well as to that of the entire world to prosecute towards increasing fulfillment.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). President Quirino's address to the U. S. House of Representatives, August 10, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(8), 3262-3264.

**Address of President Quirino before the U. S. Senate Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the U. S. Senate**

[Delivered on August 19, 1949]

MR. VICE PRESIDENT, DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE SENATE :

Fifteen years ago in this very hall, I took oath as a member of the federal bar. It was this august body of the Senate that, for several months before the Tydings-McDuffie Acts was converted into law on March 24, 1934, I had also frequently visited as ranking member of the last Philippine Independence Mission headed by our friend, the late President Manuel L. Quezon to watch developments in the discussions of the provisions of the bill, in the original drafting of which, I now recall with pride, I cooperated with my dear friend, Senator Tydings.

I have come as a bidden guest of your Government. I am happy to report that America's handiwork in the Orient has justified its existence as the first English speaking republic in the East. When Commodore Dewey entered Manila Bay and God gave victory to his arms against the Spanish fleet, the American people little thought, and the Filipinos thought less, that 50 years afterwards America would assume a role, and the Filipinos an obligation, unparalleled in the history of liberty loving peoples. In spite of herself, America assumed the responsibility of leadership in the extension of freedom and security to the peoples in that part of the globe. And the Philippines, correspondingly and in deep gratitude, is under obligation of extending the democratic way of life, as richly enjoyed by the Filipino people, in our neighborhood and elsewhere.

Today the Republic of the Philippines stands as a monument to the great American dream of freedom—the freedom to which the American nation was born and by which it lives, and which it has shared increasingly with the peoples of other lands.

I have recalled this little bit of history because time presses for a redefinition of the relations between the United States and the Philippines. I speak of the Philippines in a very special sense, not as just one more State with which this great Republic maintains certain ties, but as a vital outpost of freedom and democracy in our side of the world—the very freedom which you taught us to treasure and of which you are today the great champion and defender.

How far we have proved ourselves worthy of freedom the whole world knows. And the world will know that we are determined to fight for freedom so long as Bataan and Corregidor exist. So far as we are concerned, the history of our unremitting struggle for liberty during the last four hundred years has predetermined our future course should our freedom be menaced from any quarter.

Our Republic is only three years old. It was born under exceedingly difficult and trying circumstances, drawing in its birth not only the blood and tears of my countrymen but of yours, as well. Our faith in democracy is being tested most severely. But I ask you, remembering the history of your own original thirteen countries that formed the Union, to believe that the Republic of the Philippines will emerge from these troubled times stronger in its faith in the soundness and incompatible advantages of the democratic way. The Filipino people have found in the democracy you have implanted in our land the fulness of life and enjoyment of its blessings, and they will not surrender them in exchange for the false Utopian promises of any totalitarian system.

But today the most urgent problem that confronts the Philippines and the other free countries of Asia is the problem of security. It is, in fact, the principal problem that besets all those States that lie athwart the advancing tide of communism.

The Philippines rejoices with the rest of the free world that there has at least been erected a mighty bulwark against the advance of communism in Europe. That sector of the globe has been secured and the peace of the world, to that extent, has been stabilized.

However, it is obvious to everyone that the task of securing our free world is only half done. No one who realizes the extent of the menace to which Asia is exposed—the threat to Korea, the infiltration into Viet Nam, the debacle in China—can well afford to rest at ease now—that the North Atlantic Pact is in full force and effect.

Asia with its vast population which accounts for more than half that of the world and with its incalculable resources, cannot and ought not to be lost to communism by default. And yet this is bound to happen unless something of the courage and vision that went into the forging of the democratic defenses in Europe is applied to the forging of a similar system of defense in Asia.

My concern over this problem has led me into taking the first steps towards this end. I realize fully that there are strong reasons why the United States may not too readily welcome the obligations that its active participation in this project would entail. I have not, therefore, made such participation a necessary condition for the initiation of the project itself.

But I feel very strongly that the free countries of Southeast Asia and the Pacific must themselves start the movement for closer cooperation in furtherance of their common interests in the political, economic and cultural fields. No military commitments are contemplated at the moment. The reason is simple. The countries concerned have presently no armies, navies, or air forces to muster under the terms of a military alliance. Most of them have but newly emerged into independent nationhood and are faced with grave domestic problems. They count with no industrial base of sufficient strength or magnitude to support a major military undertaking and, by constitutional mandate, the Philippines renounces war as an instrument of national policy. Above all, it is my feeling that we have time in the still free countries of Asia to check the advance of communism by non-military means.

Our problem is therefore basically economics. Asia must properly feed and clothe and house its millions, and raise their living standards. Technical aid is needed as well as capital to tap and develop its agricultural and industrial potentialities. Fortunately, President Truman's four-point program and the United Nations project of technical assistance to under-developed countries give promise of aid to come.

We realize that, in the end, our salvation must come from self help, and that the advantages of self help will be enhanced tenfold if, as we now propose to do in the projected Pacific Union, we can convert self help to mutual help.

This is the fundamental aim and purpose of the Pacific Union: To forge stronger ties of economic cooperation and collaboration between the free countries of Asia in order to enhance their prosperity, to hasten the march of self government, in order to afford concentration on internal development, and to preserve their freedom. If, after the Union has been organized and the modes of collaboration have been determined, the United States and the other democracies should desire to offer such help as should lie in their power to give, it need hardly be said that the offer will not only be warmly received but justly blessed. I am confident that the member States of the Union will gratefully accept the renewal in peace and for peaceful ends of an alliance that was forged in the last war for the sake of a common victory.

The time runs short and the margin of our common security grows narrower each day. As President of the Republic of the Philippines, I consider it my supreme responsibility in this perilous hour to call upon our friends everywhere, but especially our friends in America, not to tarry too long in the redefinition of fundamental attitudes towards Asia to which I have earlier referred. May I venture to hope that this process, which may well determine the fate of more than half of mankind in the next thousand years, will be a calm, deliberate movement towards clarity, vigor and resolution.

I am grateful to the Members of the Senate for this singular opportunity to say a few words from this mighty rostrum. I have spoken with a degree of frankness that might possibly sound somewhat unusual coming from almost

any other guest of this powerful Body. But for this I invoke the memory of our long association in the common endeavor of freedom and democracy that culminated in the establishment of the Republic of the Philippines. I invoke also the bitter sacrifices that the American and the Filipino peoples endured together in the recent war for freedom in the Pacific as sufficient justification for the grave concern that I have here expressed on behalf of that self same freedom.

That freedom is in peril for more than half the population of the globe. Only the blind will say that the menace does not concern America, because the history of the last two world wars show all too clearly that this great democracy cannot remain unconcerned wherever and whenever the survival of free men in a free world is at stake.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). President Quirino's address to the U. S. Senate, August 19, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(8), 3259-2562.

Elpidio Quirino, Second State of the Nation Address, January 23, 1950

**Address
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the State of the Nation**

[Released on January 23, 1950]

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Congress:

Circumstances beyond my control make me forego the pleasure of appearing in person to deliver this message following a beautiful tradition established many years ago and adhered to most punctiliously by my predecessors in office. Although during your short period of special session coincident with my inauguration I had an opportunity to thank you informally for your prompt response on the measures that I recommended, I reiterate my deep appreciation for your fine spirit of cooperation from the start of this administration. I wish to assure you of the same cooperation in your legislative labors.

It give me great satisfaction to be able to report to you that, in spite of the unfavorable conditions under which we labored during the past year due to the intense and bitter political controversies which raged throughout the nation, we have achieved notable progress in our constructive endeavors.

There is relative peace and order in the entire country today. The sporadic activities of outlaws in isolated and widely dispersed localities are under control. There is no organized movement of any consequence that can be considered a threat to the stability of our Government. The recent attempt to challenge the authority of this Government by a few disgruntled elements has definitely ended with the surrender and offer of cooperation of these elements, and the amnesty granted by the Government. We can now say that, generally, our farms and our countryside are only awaiting the hand that would till the soil to contribute in proper measure to our productive efforts.

Our social amelioration program has shed its beneficent blessings on the people inhabiting even the remotest confines of the archipelago; it has given a relief to small independent farmers within and beyond the once called troubled areas. It has so spread the gospel of peace and so inspired the people with faith in their Government, that it is well nigh impossible for the subversive elements to indoctrinate them now with their pernicious theories and ideas.

We have continued to give accommodation to every child of school age in our public schools. At the opening of the present school year, some 4,500,000 pupils were enrolled, almost one quarter of our entire population. Besides, we have extended adult education to over 160,000 people and have maintained all over the country a goodly number of vocational schools, including trade schools, agricultural and rural schools, and farm settlement schools. The farm and animal products alone coming from these schools have reached in 1948 the value of over P36,000,000, in itself a substantial contribution to our national wealth.

Our health services have continued to expand with increasing efficiency. The general health condition all over the country has been excellent, and the death rate has materially diminished, while the birth rate has substantially increased. In my travels all over the country, I have seen the people and the children better dressed and looking more healthy. The rehabilitation of small homes has made rapid strides, and the Government has not slackened in its efforts to remove the slums still in evidence in the thickly populated centers. The price index of essential commodities reached a new low during the month of October 1949, raising the goods exchange value of the peso to 45:58 centavos, the highest since liberation.

While we have not as yet discovered a fully satisfactory formula for settling or preventing all industrial disputes, every effort is being exerted to minimize stoppage or dislocation of industries because of unnecessary strikes. To

foster mutual understanding and minimize the causes of industrial conflicts, we are encouraging and assisting labor and management to enter into free and voluntary collective bargaining contracts. We settled during the past year 87 out of 187 labor cases submitted for conciliation, and 77 out of 83 labor conflicts involving strikes. With the creation of the Bureau of Industrial Safety, we hope to promote further the safety and welfare of the laboring class. Various pieces of legislation are under study, all of them designed to improve industrial relations and ultimately achieve industrial peace. I cannot overestimate the necessity of evolving some satisfactory solution to this problem, for only through it may we have our efforts in production continue to progress unhampered, attract capital to further investments, and increase opportunities for employment.

We have continued to give impetus to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of public buildings, especially the schools, and have materially increased our means of transportation and communication throughout the country. Besides, we have, during the last year, added 1,370 kilometers of new roads to our highway system, 34 concrete and steel permanent bridges, and have constructed, reconstructed, or repaired a total of 1,212 school buildings. We have also put in serviceable condition no less than twenty outlying ports besides the port of Manila; and, in order to aid our productive efforts, we have maintained and operated 14 irrigation systems, constructed and placed in operation three additional ones, and we have now in process of construction five major irrigation projects, all of them sufficient to furnish water to some 110,000 hectares of agricultural land.

As to our public finances, it is gratifying to note that although our tax collection system is still far from perfect, our internal revenue collections alone reached the sum of P320,076,759.88 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949, an all-time high for the country, as compared to P263,023,100.88 for the preceding year. In 1947, our national tax collection totaled only P191,000,000 and, in 1946, P67,000,000. Withal, we must not relax in our efforts. A drastic reorganization of our tax-collecting agencies is now under way.

We have expanded our foreign relations, especially with the peoples of neighboring countries. We set up during the last year a legation in Bangkok, a consulate-general in Calcutta, and consulates in Karachi and Batavia. For Latin America, we established a legation in Buenos Aires, and accredited Ambassador Joaquin M. Elizalde as Minister to Cuba in addition to his duties as ambassador to the United States.

We concluded treaties of friendship with the Kingdom of Thailand and with the Republic of Turkey; cultural agreements with the Spanish State; and air service agreements with the Government of Pakistan and with the Kingdom of Greece.

Our contribution to world peace reached its peak when, with the election of Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo as President of the United Nations Assembly, the Philippines had the opportunity to preside over the deliberations of that world organization.

But in the rapid developments taking place in the Far East today, we should not be unmindful of our own national security—territorial, political and economic. At long last the eyes of the world are turned to this new area of portentous possibilities. We must find our just and constructive place inspired by and fortified with all prudence, foresight and firmness in the face of the changing scenes unfolding before our eyes. As the first Republic to be established in the Far East, our responsibility is great. Our mission is to broaden and expand our freedom and enrich our democratic institutions and secure for our people and our neighbors higher standards of creative living.

Internally, the most important problem facing us is the stabilization of our national economy.

In my annual message to the last Congress, I laid special emphasis on the urgent need for total economic mobilization. In line with this program, we have used all available means at our command in order to accelerate our development plans, rehabilitate our war-torn industries, and increase to the highest degree the production of export crops.

We have established priorities in the various projects that must be undertaken. The Central Bank which began to function at the beginning of 1949, implemented these plans with funds which it advanced to the national government under the provisions of section 137 of its charter.

Out of the total P200,000,000 of direct advances which the Central Bank is authorized to make, about P117,332,003 has been allocated by the National Economic Council, P52,126,450 of which has been released by the Central Bank for the past year mostly for the following projects: P7,925,000 for the rice and corn project of the National Development Company; P1,843,170 for the abaca rehabilitation project; P1,000,000 for power development projects; P11,000,000 for irrigation projects; and P20,000,000 for the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation.

In aid of the rehabilitation and reconstruction program, the Government has also disbursed from the general funds huge amounts which, in effect, constitute capital expenditures of the Government out of its ordinary revenues. For the reconstruction of 7,395 school buildings alone, the national government spent P53,306,172.74 from 1946 to 1949. For other permanent public works projects, the Government likewise disbursed, until May 31, 1949, a total of P123,451,687.16, over and above those made by the United States Government through the War Damage Commission and the United States Public Roads Administration. Other capital expenditures for which funds had been made available by the Government were as follows: P31,495,400 from 1946 to 1949 to various government corporations for rehabilitating and expanding their activities; P54,423,079 to the RFC as contribution to its capital; P9,999,179 for the purchase of preferred shares of banks to assist in their rehabilitation; and P3,600,000 to domestic insurance companies for the same purpose.

In addition to direct government financing as above indicated, our program of rehabilitation and development has been aided and continues to be aided through loans granted by the Philippine National Bank and the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation. Industrial loans granted by the Philippine National Bank from 1946 to June of 1949 amounted roughly to P108,800,000.

The Rehabilitation Finance Corporation, from its opening on January 2, 1947 to June 30, 1949, granted a total of 12,195 loans aggregating P228,626,374.

The impetus given by both direct government financing and financing by government lending agencies and private financing institutions in the Philippines to our program of economic mobilization has borne fruit. During the last three years, we have achieved definite progress in the rehabilitation of our major food and export industries.

The record shows:

Production of palay, which was only 36,893,940 cavans in 1945-1946, was around 56,000,000 cavans in 1948-1949, or slightly higher than the production in 1940. And 1949 is the second year in which we had no rice crisis.

Corn production is slightly higher than the pre-war production.

The production of fruits and nuts, beans and vegetables has improved over the pre-war record.

The fishing industry has not only recuperated rapidly since liberation, but has surpassed its pre-war output. In 1948, we produced 195,078 tons of fish, as against 170,000 in 1940, and the industry is now almost exclusively in Filipino hands.

Production of copra is in excess of pre-war. Oil production is below pre-war, but desiccated coconut output in 1948 exceeded the 1940 level.

The recovery of the sugar industry is one of the most encouraging signs in our post-war economic landscape. In 1945-1946, only four out of the 41 sugar mills in operation before the war were in operation. These four mills produced only 12,913.55 short tons. In 1947, production rose to 84,548.08 short tons and, in 1948, it went up to 398,113.10 short tons. During the milling season of 1948-1949, the industry produced a total of 719,324 short tons, and, for 1949-1950, estimates are that 800,000 short tons will be produced. There are now in operation 28 centrifugal sugar mills and two refineries.

Lumber is another industry which has recovered from the effects of war in a very striking manner. Of the 163 sawmills in operation before the war, 138 were destroyed, damaged or looted. Production of timber dropped from over one billion board feet in 1940 to 91,058,500 board feet in 1945-1946. It jumped in 1946-1947 to 438,784,500 board feet. Timber production for the year ending June 30, 1949 totaled again over a billion board feet. The production of sawn lumber has followed the phenomenal recovery in timber production.

With extraordinary effort and expense, we have no doubt attained a goodly part of our goals in the field of economic rehabilitation and development since independence in 1946; but much remains to be done to maintain our economy in a balanced state.

We have these past years since liberation seemingly enjoyed a life of plenty and even a luxury, not so much as a result of our productive energies as because of the temporary flow of money into our economy. Presently there is the large gap that has developed between the value of the products that we sell abroad and the cost of the products that we buy and bring into our country. We must realize that this state of affairs cannot continue without causing such disequilibrium in our economy as would eventually engulf us in the tremendous difficulties which other countries have experienced. It is because of this realization that we have taken immediate corrective measures to prevent a situation that would undermine the international stability and the internal value of our currency. This, we must maintain at all costs.

But we must not be unduly alarmed. We have taken such measures and we are taking other measures which, if carried out strictly and expeditiously, with the cooperation of one and all, should greatly improve our present economic situation. This country, with its vast resources, is as sound as any that there is on the face of the earth. I am confident that our people, trained as they have been, to undergo the extreme sacrifices that they have seen during the last war, will respond to the little inconveniences that the measures we are now taking might cause. These measures are none other than what any prudent man would take to correct a trend toward disaster if allowed unchecked.

But we are faced not only with the task of reducing import outlays and selecting which of our foreign purchases should be curtailed and which unrestricted in the interest of maintaining present standards of living. Ours is also the greater task of increasing our export receipts. This can be attained by carrying to full execution our rehabilitation and development as rapidly as possible. Projects that are promising of immediate results should be given preference over those that must of necessity, on account of their nature, take a long time to produce tangible returns.

Thus, our most serious concern for the next four years should be: immediate increased production through rapid rehabilitation and development; decreased public and external expenditures; Government reorganization to achieve efficiency, economy and effective rendition of public services responsive to the needs and welfare of our people; vigorous and honest enforcement of the tax laws; preservation of our national integrity and continued friendly relations with our neighbors and the entire world.

Let us exert every effort and employ every ounce of our energy to implement these high objectives. Let us pool the enthusiasm, the labors, and the patriotism of a united people and honestly pull together for the promotion of the common good to make secure, for all time, our national structure.

Message of President Quirino to the Third National Congress and the Second Annual Convention of the National Federation of Sugar-Cane Planters

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
to the Third National Congress and the
Second Annual Convention of the
National Federation of Sugar-Cane Planters**

[Read by PNB Vice-President J. D. Quintos in Bacolod City, March 7, 1950]

Gentlemen of the Convention:

I am happy to greet the delegates to the Third National Congress and the Second Annual Convention of the National Federation of Sugar Cane Planters. I would have wanted to appear before you personally today, knowing as I do the importance of this gathering and the vital problems that will be discussed in the course of your deliberations. I regret, however, that the condition of my health has not permitted me to do so.

As you know, one of the principal objectives of my administration is to gear all the elements of the country to a program of total economic mobilization. More than ever, it is essential that our export-producing industries be brought to maximum production. While the sugar industry has grown by leaps and bounds since liberation, it has yet a long way to go before reaching its commanding position in our economy during the pre-war years.

Shortly after my assumption of office as President in 1948, I created the Sugar Rehabilitation and Readjustment Commission to advise me on the problems of the industry. Since then I have given every possible incentive and assistance, financial and otherwise, in bringing the industry to the level at least of its pre-war production.

I am informed, however, that the industry will be able to fill hardly 60 per cent of our export quota to the United States. At present prices, this means that we will be unable to take full advantage of the privilege of free entry in the United States. This will mean a loss to us of approximately \$45,000,000. I am also informed that the capacity of the sugar mills today is more than sufficient to take care of our pre-war production, and that the deficiency is due to the insufficient amount of cane that is being produced. This, in turn, is due mostly not only to the disorders obtaining in certain sections of Luzon but, until recently, to fear among some planters in this premier province in sugar production. It is my earnest endeavor to remove the causes of that fear.

While the Government is now engaged in an all-out offensive against the dissidents, we are at the same time trying to find a way whereby unfilled cane quotas may be produced in other areas. I am in high hopes that we shall be able to do this by legal means beginning with the 1951-1952 crop.

In order to maintain the industry in a thriving condition, however, we must reduce our cost of production both in the factory and in the field. Factory costs can be reduced by increased cane supply, and the cane supply must come from increased yields per hectare rather than from the planting of additional areas. With the financial help of the PRATRA, the Sugar Rehabilitation and Readjustment Commission has started a new experimental station where improved cane culture will be practiced through the use of machinery and the selection of high-yielding cane varieties. These activities, I am sure, will be of the greatest help to all the planters, just as they have proved to be in Hawaii where the largest production per hectare in the world is now being obtained.

As to financing, the government banks and financial institutions have granted loans to the extent of around one hundred million pesos to the sugar industry in the form of agricultural loans and crop loans, as well as rehabilitation loans. I have just asked the Philippine National Bank to consider the proposals presented to me the other day by a committee headed by Governor Lacson to ease up the obligations of the planters in connection with their crop loans. I mean to continue giving all the financial aid necessary, provided proper information is furnished and adequate

plans are presented to the appropriate agencies of the Government. I am informed, however, that although the Sugar Commission has passed circulars to interested parties requesting information on their needs for rehabilitation, only meager information, if at all, has so far been received.

I must warn you all to look into the living conditions of your workers. You must know by now that an insidious attempt is being made to convert our working people to doctrines that are inimical to our democratic way of life. Discontent among our masses provides a fertile field for such a movement. You must anticipate this danger and apply the remedy before it actually strikes your farms. While conditions in different localities may require different remedies, the basic condition for the proper treatment of our workers is still social justice and economic security.

The Government will give every necessary support to the sugar industry and will welcome and give serious consideration to all suggestions coming from you calculated to enhance its prosperity.

I congratulate you all for your initiative in holding this convention, and wish you success in your deliberations.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Message of His Excellency, the President of the Philippines, to the Third National Congress and the Second Annual Convention of the National Federation of Sugar-Cane Planters, held at Bacolod City, March 7, 1950: [Read by PNB Vice-President J. D. Quintos]. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(3), 910-911.

Message of President Quirino at the opening of the Special Session of the Second Congress

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the opening of the Special Session of the Second Congress**

[Delivered at the Session Hall of the Legislative Building, August 1, 1950]

*Mr. President, Mr. Speaker,
Gentlemen of the Congress:*

I have called this special session and decided to appear before you in person in order to deliver a message of great urgency. The incomplete solution in your last regular session of our immediate financial and other internal problems and the necessity to comply at this moment with our external obligations require the adoption of decisive measures.

This session coincides with a period of mounting menace in our neighborhood which has created a situation involving the rest of the world, a situation which will undoubtedly impinge upon your deliberations. You are called upon to act on two imperatives: the creation of indispensable sources of revenue to finance our budgetary requirements and the necessary preparation for the defense of our national integrity and compliance with our international commitments.

In my message of February 7th last, I recommended a more reduced appropriation law in comparison to that of last year, and warned against unplanned spending, but at the same time recommending the approval of tax measures which I calculated to be sufficient to offset any deficiency in our financial resources. I am happy to find that the Congress has carried out the policy of reducing our expenditures, thus making further reductions by 12 million pesos in the budgetary proposal for the fiscal year 1950–1951.

These reductions, however, have affected not a few of the essential services we have established, aggravated by the non-approval of the tax measures I submitted in your last session. It is now necessary to make provision for an additional income of at least 130 million pesos. It is my conviction that we can realize this additional income by positive and courageous action on the revenue bills that have been processed, and upon which hearings have been held, by the Joint Legislative Committee created by the Council of State. Passage of these measures will raise the tax burden from six *per centum* of the national income to eight *per centum*. But this is not as onerous a tax burden as those of other countries of comparative productive capacity and *per capita* earning power, which sustain tax burdens of 20 to 37 *per centum* of their national incomes.

We need the 130 million pesos principally to provide additional appropriation for public education, and for the Armed Forces, for civilian emergency work, and to cover deficiencies in the appropriations of executive departments whose present limitations will result in the paralyzation of certain of their essential functions. In lieu of the usual annual appropriation for public works, I would like to ask you to consider if the funds derived from fuel oils and motor vehicles might not be made adequate to finance the construction and maintenance of the essential public works which I calculate we would be able to collect between 60 and 70 million pesos at the present rate of taxation, so that receipts of the General Fund might no longer be drawn upon for these purposes, at least temporarily.

Specifically, I urge the approval of these measures together with the revenue bills already processed by the Joint Committee, convinced that they will immeasurably assist in the solution of our immediate fiscal problems. For purposes of brevity, I shall merely describe for the moment the list of these bills that I am recommending with this message, consisting of two tariff measures and eight bills amending the Internal Revenue Code, and other measures to provide permanent sources for additional support of elementary education.

1. An act to legalize and ratify the license and other fees and royalties collected or to be collected by the Sugar Quota Office.
2. An act to provide that internal revenue stamps of the Philippines may in certain cases be affixed in foreign countries to tobacco products manufactured in such countries before importation into the Philippines.
3. An act to raise revenue by raising from two to five pesos the charge for the certificate of transfer of large cattle.
4. An act to amend section eight of paragraph twenty-two of the Philippine Tariff Act of 1909 which is continued in force by Republic Act Numbered Three.
5. An act to amend section twenty-one of the Philippine Tariff Act of 1909 which is continued in force by Republic Act Numbered Three. (Re refund of amount equal to tariff duties imposed on fuel used by vessels engaged in foreign or local trade.)
6. An act to amend certain sections of Commonwealth Act Numbered Four hundred sixty-six, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code. (Re tax upon business, sales tax, etc.)
7. An act to amend Title VI of Commonwealth Act Numbered Four hundred and sixty-six, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code. (Re documentary stamp tax.)
8. An act to amend sections one hundred and thirty-three, one hundred and thirty-four, one hundred and thirty-five, one hundred and thirty-seven, one hundred and forty, and one hundred and forty-seven of Commonwealth Act Numbered Four hundred and sixty-six, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended. (Re tax on distilled spirits, wines, liquors, etc.)
9. An act to amend section six of Act Numbered Forty-one hundred and thirty, as amended. (Re increase of documentary stamp tax for sweepstake tickets.)
10. An act to amend sections two hundred and ninety-six and two hundred and ninety-seven of Commonwealth Act Numbered Four hundred and sixty-six, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code. (Registration of radio receiving sets.)
11. An act to amend sections two hundred and sixty and two hundred sixty-one of Commonwealth Act Numbered Four hundred and sixty-six, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code. (Re amusement tax.)
12. An act to amend section two hundred and fifty-eight of Commonwealth Act Numbered Four hundred and sixty-six, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code.
13. An act fixing a fee for the consular certification of invoices.
14. An act to amend certain sections of Commonwealth Act Numbered Four hundred and sixty-six, as amended, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code, and to add Title II thereof a supplement providing for the withholding of the income tax on wages, and for other purposes.
15. An act to amend sections eighty-five, eighty-six, eighty-nine, one hundred and nine, and one hundred and ten of Commonwealth Act Numbered Four hundred and sixty-six, otherwise known as the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended. (Re estate, inheritance, and gift taxes.)
16. Measures to provide permanent sources for additional support of public elementary education—

- a. Imposing a tax on bachelors, widows, widowers, the proceeds of which shall accrue to a permanent fund to be used exclusively for the operation and maintenance of public elementary schools.
- b. Levying a tax of 10 per cent on total bets in races and jai-alai, allotting proceeds as in letter *a* above.
- c. Authorizing municipalities to charge tuition fees in intermediate classes.
- d. Imposing a tax of one per cent on the value of imports based on consular invoices.
- e. Levying a fee of P10 for every high school diploma issued by public and private high schools and a fee of P20 for collegiate or university diploma from public and private universities and colleges.

There are a few other measures of administrative character the urgency of action on which I shall certify to the Congress in each specific case. I assure you, however, that I shall not overburden the Congress unnecessarily except by measures of the most peremptory character. But we must continue strengthening the national economy, and having in view our external finance. We cannot forever be imposing negative measures, such as import, exchange, and credit controls to tide us over to better times.

Taking advantage of the enlightened policy of assistance to less developed countries which the President of the United States had adopted, I have therefore asked for an exhaustive study and analysis of our economic difficulties. We have with us today a most distinguished group of top level economists, financiers, and agricultural and industrial experts undertaking this work. We hope that finally a program of mutual cooperation can be devised between our Government and the Government of the United States for the stabilization of our economy. A Philippine economically stable is an indispensable factor in the preservation of democracy and the safe-guarding of the freedom and liberty that we enjoy together with our neighbors.

Now I wish to draw your attention to the precarious international situation. As the recognized leader of the free world, the United States of America has been called upon to bear the brunt of the United Nations' effort to restore security and order in Korea. That great Republic, heeding the clamor of her peace-loving people to disarm and demobilize at the end of the last war, completely withdrew its troops from Korea and maintained only a small force in Japan for routine duties of occupation. Yet when the challenge came from the North, she met that challenge without vacillation realizing that the future of the United Nations and the fate of the free world were at stake. America, having committed herself to the maintenance of international peace and security under the United Nations charter and having pledged herself to defend freedom as a matter of basic national policy, stood up to honor her commitments to the letter. America has met the issue squarely and it is a good thing for the free people of the rest of the world, for Asia especially, to see and for the Philippines to know.

As a member of the United Nations we share fully in these commitments. But these commitments are clearly defined and fixed more strongly still by the existing bonds of friendship between the United States and the Philippines—bonds which, though requiring no formal instruments to maintain, are set forth in two treaties between them: the agreement concerning military bases and the agreement concerning military assistance to the Philippines. The basic assumption in both agreements is that the Governments of the two countries realize the need for taking the necessary measures to promote their mutual security and to defend their territories and areas, placing their forces and resources under the United Nations to help maintain world peace, especially in the Pacific. These principles become operative to the extent that the security of this country and the requirements of our mutual defense with the United States may become directly involved in further developments of the Korean situation.

The Philippine Government has pledged its support of the United Nations' effort in Korea to the limit of its available resources. We have promised to send materials and equipment, part of which is already there, and we have offered to enlist Filipino volunteers to fight under the United Nations flag in Korea.

Our country has barely risen as you know, from the ruins of the last war. Our friends and allies under the United Nations charter will understand that a country like ours, itself badly in need of military assistance and its available troops actually engaged in putting down political dissidents at home, has not the resources to undertake overseas a

complete and self-contained military effort of its own. Nevertheless, we shall make sacrifices, for fight we must if fight we need. Thus, we prepare for the next war, while we repair the damages of the last one. We are not going to dodge our responsibility nor renounce the honor to fight side by side with the rest of the world in this world conflict. [Applause.]

Our friends understand also that the effort which the Philippine Government continues to exert with undiminished vigor to fight the dissidents within is an integral part of the overall struggle against the totalitarian enemy. The same considerations that have compelled the countries of Western Europe and elsewhere, which are directly exposed to possible enemy action, to avoid the dissipation of their defensive powers, hold with respect to the Philippines. The global strategy for the defense of the free world requires that we leave no exposed areas undefended or unguarded lest the concentration of our forces at a single point place us at the mercy of the enemy who enjoys the advantage of choosing the time and the place for the next engagement.

Gentlemen of the Congress, I need not warn you how close we are to the center of the intensity of the present armed encounter. God grant that the clash of arms in the area may be localized, confined to that unfortunate peninsula in Asia, and that our country may escape direct involvement. The risk is great we all realize but it is a risk which we have to take as a free people and as a faithful member of the United Nations. Since the situation is extremely fluid and the menace mounts from hour to hour, I must strongly urge a policy and a program sufficiently ample and flexible to meet the emergency.

I am asking you, first of all, to vote more funds for national defense and internal security. That is not only elemental but fundamental to a country as weak as we are. I realize that the condition of our finances renders this request extremely difficult to satisfy. But this we must do even if other public services will have to be curtailed thereby. We rebel against this unpleasant duty but the need is compelling and our national survival demands it. To do less would be a dereliction of duty and a treasonable betrayal of public trust. We cannot afford, you and I, we of the present generation—to renounce our responsibility to make this country continue existing with the independence and sovereignty that we now enjoy.

Democracy is a complicated machine and its operation can sometimes be awkward and slow but it is an uplifting experience to see it roll into action and come to grips with reality and danger. Then like an advancing gigantic tank nothing will equal its power and tenacity.

This special session of Congress therefore, I am confident, will see Philippine democracy going into action, in high gear, in a time of immeasurable danger that we now face. I bespeak the hopes of our people when I say that this Congress, setting narrow partisanship aside and unmindful of individual political fortunes, will set a new precedent in single-minded devotion to the welfare, freedom, and security of the nation.

The internal and external situation of the country today has again challenged our courage, our vision, our moral fiber, our determination. The circumstances demand that we act as one man, looking forward only to the permanent interests of the country and our contribution to the preservation of freedom and peace of mankind.

I have addressed innumerable appeals for national unity to you and to our people. I consider it unnecessary to make this appeal anew at this moment. If unity has been desirable heretofore, it now acquires the quality of a categorical imperative. We must come together in faith, and in action, placing our shoulders together to the wheel—for freedom, for survival. Thank you.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Message of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, at the opening of the Special Session of the Second Congress held at the Session Hall of the Legislative Building, August 1, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(8), 3613-3619.

Message of President Quirino to the Third Special Session of the Second Congress, December 4, 1950

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the Third Special Session of the Second Congress**

[Released on December 4, 1950]

*Mr. President, Mr. Speaker,
Members of the Congress:*

I have convened the third special session of the Congress to place before you proposals of the highest importance. You will recall that in my last trip to the United States I had occasion to discuss with our friends in Washington the orderly growth and development of our Republic, which has been my most serious concern since the beginning of this Administration. Our ambitious program of total economic mobilization in order to attain self-sufficiency and raise the level of our people's economic and social well-being had already been adopted, but it had become apparent that our country needed more technical assistance to properly carry out the program. President Truman graciously offered to render that assistance.

Thus, on my invitation, he sent an Economic Survey Mission to the Philippines to appraise the economic and financial problems of the country and to recommend appropriate measures which would insure the achievement of our immediate objective—the economic and financial stability of the country.

Under the distinguished leadership of the Honorable Daniel W. Bell, the Economic Survey Mission completed its survey of all aspects of the Philippine economy. In compliance with its responsibility, this Mission submitted a Report with recommendations to the President of the United States for the solution of the many social and economic problems which had confronted us in the past and which have been aggravated by the ravages of the last war.

The Bell Mission was composed of very able and highly qualified scientists and technicians from the United States. Its report, which is most constructive, I shall lay before you. However much we might disagree on some of its conclusions, its recommendation should receive the sympathetic and serious consideration of the members of the Congress. In the words of President Truman, in transmitting the report to me, it “is not a blue-print containing all answers to the complicated problem of the Philippines. It does, however, provide our Government with a basis on which to work.”

Its main recommendation is for the United States to provide financial assistance in the amount of \$250,000,000 through loans and grants for a five-year program of economic development. To make this aid most productive of positive results, the report also indicates that appropriate measures be taken by the Philippine Government to carry out a social reform and economic development program, and to enforce a fiscal policy that would assure a well-balanced budget and the gradual elimination of accumulated deficits.

Recently, in his desire to promptly assist our country, President Truman sent to the Philippines his personal representative, the Honorable William C. Foster, Administrator of the Economic Cooperation Administration, in order to discuss measures for the adequate implementation of the recommendations of the Economic Survey Mission. As a result of these discussions, a preliminary agreement was entered into on November 4, 1950 containing the principal bases for carrying out the financial and technical assistance proffered by the United States Government as envisaged in the report of said Mission.

In this agreement, it is provided that such assistance should be given within the pattern of the ECA, subject to such modifications as may be agreed upon consistent with the special friendly relations binding our two countries. On my part I agreed that, after consultation with the Council of State, I would submit at the earliest practicable date for the consideration of the Congress of the Philippines a legislative program including the following measures:

1. Tax legislation of an equitable character designed to balance the budget and provide a surplus to gradually reduce previous deficits and counteract inflationary trend brought about by the present world-wide conditions. Under the ECA system of financial assistance, it is estimated that it would be necessary to raise the annual tax revenue to ₱565,000,000, to enable the country to take full advantage of such assistance. Besides, the new tax revenue program should take effect on January 1, 1951.

2. A minimum wage law for all agricultural and industrial workers as an initial step to improve their wages and living conditions.

3. A joint resolution affirming the general policy of the Congress to accelerate by appropriate legislation the implementation of social reform and economic development measures recommended in the report of the Economic Survey Mission.

The Congress of the United States is now in session and will, undoubtedly, be called upon to consider the Philippine aid program among other pressing matters. I have convened this special session in order to demonstrate that we are, on our part, prepared to move forward with fairness and resourcefulness in dealing with our responsibilities.

I consider it unnecessary to state the reasons why, in the present stage of our national development, we need the proffered assistance of the United States of America. And I hope I shall also be spared the necessity of recapitulating the causes behind the financial distress which now requires us, boldly and resolutely, not only to overcome our greatest difficulties but also to take advantage of our greater opportunities.

To meet the extraordinary demands of the public services since our liberation, as well as of physical rehabilitation, and of industrial and general economic development, the Government has had to supplement its limited income from a prostrate economy by the utilization of our savings abroad, by loans from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation of the United States, by transfers from currency reserves, and by increased use of the banking system to absorb debt flotations.

We have thus resorted to deficit financing, drawing upon our reserves and using the Government credit as a means of rebuilding the productive capacity of the country and providing for the most essential services far above the limits set by collected tax revenues.

In your last special session you approved measures designed to produce additional revenue to meet our financial difficulties, convinced that deficit financing should no longer continue. But more appropriate measures must still be taken to balance the budget, to increase the cash balances of the Treasury, and to liquidate the accumulated deficits. This will afford us also an opportunity to revise our tax system not only to provide for a sufficient flow of revenue to meet our expenditures but to adopt a more equitable distribution of the tax burden as between people of small means and people of large means, in accordance with their ability to pay.

The Council of State is preparing a program of tax legislation and social reform and economic development measures, for your consideration. The various tax bills recommended and designed to raise additional revenue to meet our commitments under the United States aid program are now ready for submission. The increased taxation provided in these measures, if enacted, will still leave the people of the Philippines paying only some 15 per cent of the national income. This will be a comparatively low tax burden compared with that of most nations.

At the same time, the Government is taking vigorous steps to minimize tax evasion and intensify revenue collection; and substantial economies are being effected as a result of the reorganization of the Government. All conceivable and reasonable means should be resorted to in order to balance our budget and put our house in order. It needs courage to do so. It also requires a great amount of sacrifice on the part of our people to meet our greater responsibilities. But the stake is great; it affects the permanent well-being of every individual family; and our national honor, integrity, and self-respect leave us no other course.

There is special reason for us to make this determination. Recent international developments have made nations again apprehensive of a new world conflict. The world situation is serious and the gravity of the danger that the

events in Korea pose to the rest of Asia and eventually of the world, cannot be underestimated. While all diplomatic means of setting the problem have not been exhausted, the explosive possibilities of the situation are apparent.

Mankind today is facing its most desperate hour. Any chance spark that passes the vigilance of the world's most responsible leaders may ignite the explosion that can blow us into dust. The validity of both the military and the diplomatic genius of man in preventing this catastrophic eventuality is now under the severest test. The issue rests between ambition that would resort to military force for the mere achievement of power and the highest human idealism that would use all possible resources in the service of life, truth and human dignity. But at this supreme moment, it has become not a mere choice between military and diplomatic strategy: it is a matter of conscience in the exercise of humanity's best wisdom to design a new way in the relations of men and of nations.

Obstinacy in international policies, in disregard of billions of innocent people who will feel the consequences of an imminent decision, must weigh heavily on the shoulders of a few individuals who have it in them to make of this earth a new hell or heaven. I am no war-monger; I have no reason to court catastrophe; I do not stand to profit from raising any scare. But I consider it my duty to prepare our people for the direst contingency. We have no choice about our own age; we are an integral part of the world whatever corner we occupy in it; we can have no life apart and isolated from the rest.

The anxiety that grips a London cockney, the despair that submerges a Korean peasant, the hope that can light the spirit of a dispossessed kulak, the exaltation that thrills an American citizen over the triumph of liberty—all these easily re-echo in every Filipino's heartbeat.

Although there should be no cause for panic and hysteria, as the danger of direct outside aggression and eventual enemy occupation of our country is not so great today as it was before the last war, we cannot but be gravely concerned with the immediate threat from within our own shores. We do not have to wait for the conflagration across the sea to spread, in order to realize that our misguided brothers who have been destroying the tranquility of the nation are taking advantage of the situation to continue their wanton acts of cruelty and vandalism against their own countrymen. They thus present an increasing problem of peace and order which, if allowed to further deteriorate, will undoubtedly retard our economic development. We must do everything to insure domestic tranquility and internal security.

Owing to lack of available funds from the national coffers, I have been compelled to seek voluntary contribution from the people, through the creation of the Peace Fund Commission, in order to meet this problem during the recess of the Congress. We have to meet this problem with redoubled energies. I lay it before you with the gravest concern. Its solution requires immediate provision of the means to carry out a relentless and vigorous campaign against the enemies of our freedom and democratic institutions at home.

So I appeal anew to the civic conscience of our people. I urge them to contribute their just and patriotic share not only in meeting the ever-increasing demands upon our public treasury but in the apprehension and annihilation of the illegal, inhuman, rebellious alien-inspired forces that obstruct the progress of the nation.

Gentlemen of the Congress, it remains to us to meet squarely our just share of the burden in order to merit and take full advantage of the forthcoming assistance that will enable us to raise the quality of life and living in our country; it is up to us to provide the means to secure and strengthen domestic tranquility and afford the convenient climate for production and the happy disposition of age-long social and economic ills.

We can claim, and justly, that we have a long standing program of social justice and amelioration. But if we have not made as much progress as we should, it is not only because we have been short on means and resources but because we have been slow to adapt ourselves to a new orientation to the circumstances existing today in our country and in the world.

As we take advantage of the opportunity to better conditions at home with proper United States assistance, we should prepare our minds and resolve to create that moral atmosphere congenial to the development of a positive program of lasting social amelioration. We need a new social conscience based not on materialistic advantages alone

derived from productive activities but on the sense of service and of stewardship of those advantages, on the willingness to share with one's fellow men the fruits of such advantages and to develop this nation not for the benefit of a few but for the lasting contentment and happiness of all the people.

In other words, the greater the fortune, the bigger the income, the more the opportunities, the stronger should be the readiness to help and contribute to the well-being of others and the nation at large. I know of no sounder basis for personal as well as social and national happiness than this sense of stewardship of the talents and the resources that God sees fit to endow any man or any nation. We cannot be less willing than our friends abroad to help us and our country develop into a real bastion and home of democracy and freedom.

It is highly doubtful whether we shall ever have this opportunity again to realize this our lasting aspiration. We cannot neglect to act now. We have a great responsibility to our people and to the concert of free nations in which we have a part to play. We are called upon to make calm and vigorous decisions and to act before it is too late.

I am sure the members of this Congress will fill the bill for courageous and far-seeing performance required by the extraordinary times in which we live with patriotism, vision, and energy. And with Divine guidance and support, we can yet bridge this perilous period to better days of security and abundance for our Republic in united and positive action.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Message of President Quirino to the Third Special Session of the Second Congress. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(12), 6003-6008.

Elpidio Quirino, Third State of the Nation Address, January 22, 1951

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the Congress
On the State of the Nation**

[Released on January 22, 1951]

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS:

I join you today in opening your greatest opportunity yet to make history for our people. This is a year exceptionally heavy with decision and destiny; and your actions in this your second regular session may spell the difference between irreparable disaster and survival to our country.

I appreciate the earnest response of the Congress to the urgent call of action on the tax legislation program submitted in the last two special sessions which I had called for the purpose. I am gratified by the thoroughness with which you have discussed the individual tax measures. I am happy that you have passed the military appropriation bill to provide means for immediate strengthening of our fighting units for internal security.

The solid action of both houses in approving a concurrent resolution expressing the policy of this Government to give preferential and serious consideration to the main recommendations of the U.S. Economic Survey Mission to accelerate social reform and economic development, and strengthen free and democratic institutions, is an earnest of our determinations to do our part to earn American assistance under the Economic Cooperation Administration.

It is understandable that all these measures cannot be approved in the twinkling of an eye; they involve our capacity not only to shoulder immediate additional tax burdens but also a long-range program of fiscal rehabilitation and financial stability. But the necessity to provide for our imperative needs in the present world crisis presses, as the untoward effects of their neglect mount daily in proportion and importance. Therefore, it is my sincere hope that special efforts will be exerted to carry out our program without much delay.

I refer especially to those measures designed to bolster our security from within and ward off danger from without. Of course, it will be next to impossible to provide for a complete program of national defense with our limited resources alone. We need a goodly measure of outside assistance from friends and allies, particularly the United States; and, to deserve that, we must show beyond cavil that we have the spirit and the will to help ourselves.

Our preparations for defense are not for our own survival alone. We are no less participating directly in the implementation of a world issue, doing our proportionate share in the world effort to preserve peace and freedom for all. Our earnest efforts, therefore, to provide for our own security under the present circumstances become a vital part of our contribution to world security.

On the occasion of your three special sessions called after your last regular session I reported to you, and in my radio chats every fifteenth of the month, to the people, on the state of the nation. And as close and constant observers of world developments, you bear witness to such a succession of events as to keep you well apprised not only of the state of the nation but of the world situation. It is, therefore, superfluous to repeat in this message, which I intended to be brief, all the problems that have been and are facing us, or to enumerate in detail the unfinished work requiring our common action. I shall, therefore, mention only the outstanding and most pressing ones.

PUBLIC HEALTH

I shall begin with the health of our citizenry. The state of health of the nation is satisfactory, but there is much room for improvement. . Many of our people do not drink clean water and it is extremely costly to construct water systems during these days of financial stringency. There should be more artesian wells in cities and municipalities, especially in the barrios.

The country needs more hospitals and clinics.

Greater impetus should be given to the campaign against malaria, tuberculosis, and malnutrition. We should produce more vaccines and sera and other biological products and antibiotics.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The merging of the Social Welfare Commission and the PACSA into the Social Welfare Administration has been conceived in order to coordinate and concentrate our attention and better promote the welfare of the less privileged class of our population. With the reorganization thus effected, I am sure we will further improve the social welfare services.

More social reforms are due to enable the landless to own their lands, earn their livelihood, and enjoy a higher standard of living. It is never enough to promise social justice. Our most effective answer to Communism is a genuine strengthening of our national social program for the definite and positive improvement of the people's welfare.

Our immediate need is to provide adequate wherewithal to carry out our social amelioration program. The reduction of our appropriation for this purpose last year has greatly handicapped our relief and assistance to the needy.

LABOR

I trust that you will act upon the pending minimum wage bill. We want no regions or industries in the Philippines to fatten on underpaid labor.

The Conventions and Recommendations under the International Labor Organization to which the Philippines is a party should be ratified. They deal with the means of protecting our workers and promoting industrial harmony. They embody the most notable experiences of practically all the countries of the world, and provide us with a highly dependable guide for constructive social and labor legislation. Both the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Woman and Child Labor Law, and other laws, parts of which have become obsolete, must also be revised to make them more responsive to the present needs of our people.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Despite limited finances, we have been able to accommodate all the children seeking admission in the public schools. But mere admission is not enough. We must provide a type of education adequate to produce constructive, honest, efficient, disciplined, and loyal citizens.

In the reorganization of the Department of Education, I emphasized the necessity of giving more impetus to vocational training. It is my hope that by a proper revision of our educational laws, coupled with adequate funds and adjustment in the curriculum, our millions of students in our public schools alone could be made to produce many of the things that we need today and not wait for the full development of their potentiality.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

We have revitalized the judiciary by appointing men of proven ability and integrity, and by imposing a more expeditious disposition of court cases. In the face of threats posed by unscrupulous elements, our courts have acted positively and courageously in cases prejudicial to the general welfare and security. But we need more judges of first

instance to cope with the increasing work. We need also more severe measures to implement our determination to have the laws safeguarding the life and health of our citizenry enforced.

PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With the help of the U.S. Government under the Rehabilitation Act and with our own appropriations, a total of 1,012.7 kilometers of new roads was added last year to our highway system. Four new bridges were constructed and 321 bridges reconstructed. Six new irrigation systems with a total of 23,000 hectares to be served were built. Under construction are seven major irrigation projects covering a total area of 20,200 hectares. We have maintained 14 irrigation systems already serving 83,600 hectares.

It is necessary, however, that we provide for more urgent projects such as irrigation, waterworks, artesian wells, roads, and bridges. The construction of a network of roads in Mindanao must be accelerated in order to give impetus to the agricultural and industrial development of this fertile region. Funds should be made available for the establishment there of a more extensive and efficient telecommunication system.

AGRICULTURE

In spite of our efforts to rehabilitate our badly damaged agriculture, we still have plenty to do in order to attain our goal. The production of copra, lumber, and others has been brought to prewar level, but our output of sugar, abaca, tobacco, and gold among others has remained below that of 1941. We should accelerate and increase production. We must make our country self-sufficient in food and other essentials. We should produce not only what we actually need but what we shall need in the impending greater emergency. We should set aside more funds to hasten the subdivision of public lands and to expedite the necessary surveys needed for the issuance of titles.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

The application of trade controls to meet the existing emergency has resulted in the recessive trend of trade in the country. However, we have been able to improve the position of our foreign trade. Our unfavorable trade balance during the 11 months of 1950 amounted to over P28.8 million only as against P547.1 million for the same period in 1949.

Present precarious conditions demand the continuance for the time being of economic control measures and their improvement. At the same time appropriate measures should be taken to control exports and prevent the exportation of essential commodities and critical materials needed for construction and national defense.

Measures have been taken to stockpile essential commodities, to lessen the curtailment of imports of equipment and materials for agriculture and industry, and to allow the unlimited import of foodstuffs. The control of prices must be made more effective everywhere. To this end, certain amendments to the Price Control Law are necessary.

Owing to the control of imports, 60 cigarette factories and seven nail factories, among others, have been established. To prevent overcrowding of new industries, a system of licensing of new industries should be adopted.

GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION

I am submitting today the final executive acts to complete the reorganization of the Executive Department, under the authority granted by the Congress in Act No. 422. I take this occasion to express my appreciation for the conscientious work undertaken by the Reorganization Commission, headed by Minister Ramon Fernandez, which greatly helped me in this major work of government reorganization.

While few radical changes have been made due to the present political development of the country and the social and economic repercussions that a drastic reorganization entails, it must be stated that the prime objectives of efficiency, simplicity, and economy have weighed heavily in the determination of the changes effected.

In the Executive Department alone, we have been able to effect economies estimated at P5,000,000 in the present budget. A major portion of the savings, however, will be utilized to pay the gratuities of officers and employees whose positions have been abolished. But the yearly saving of P5,000,000 hereafter is awaited.

In the reorganization of government-owned and controlled corporations, it is estimated that a savings of P7,000,000 will also be effected. The discontinuation of enterprises which have been incurring substantial recurrent losses in the past years and the recasting and coordination of the activities for greater efficiency and economy of the corporations that remain, will likewise add to the estimated saving of P7,000,000 by the reorganization of the other entities.

All in all, therefore, an estimated yearly saving of P12,000,000 has been effected due to the reorganization. But this is not the limit. It is my hope that, with a more detailed study of the changes which have been started, the Congress may yet make judicious changes in several branches of the government in order to reduce the overhead expenses of administration.

With combined assets estimated at over P1.2 billion, the government-owned and controlled enterprises, have been reduced from 23 to 13, but will continue to exert decisive influence in various parts of the Philippine economy. It is gratifying to note the readiness with which private leaders of industry have responded, making themselves available in the cooperative work of coordinating public and private enterprises.

But the present government agencies assigned to implement the economic rehabilitation and development program are not structurally patterned to meet emergency situations. They do not possess adequate power and authority in themselves, separately, to cope with the new situation. Thus, I have appointed an Economic Mobilization Committee composed of members of the Cabinet and of the Congress and economic leaders outside the government to study the advisability of centralized direction and control over the economic forces of the country that should be concentrated and coordinated to assure that changing conditions may be met promptly and effectively.

NATIONAL ECONOMY

Philippine economy made great strides last year. Through the efforts of the government and our people, the nation's economy is again on the upgrade. Much still remains to be done. Our development program must be pushed through with vigor.

Last year the Philippines achieved a favorable balance in international payments of \$85.4 million as against a deficit of \$161 million in 1949. However, dollar receipts in 1951 are expected to be much less due to the termination of U. S. war damage payments.

I am gratified to observe the determination of the Congress to follow up our commitments for the implementation of our understanding with the United States leading to financial assistance under the ECA. But I must state that our tax program is not predicated merely on our desire to do our part in furtherance of said commitments. We have to provide for our most critical and urgent necessities. In fact, if we have to adequately meet our imperative needs, we must have an income more than the goal of P565 million envisaged in that understanding. But I know the capacity of our people. I would not be a party to bleeding them to inanition. Nevertheless, we must all make a sacrifice, not merely to meet ECA requirements but to insure our own good and safety. With the approval of our pending tax program, both can be substantially accomplished.

I realize that the tax bills are not popular, for taxes are seldom popular, if at all. They are, however, of absolute necessity now. There is no longer any other source for needed public funds. The borrowing capacity of our Government is limited. We cannot justifiably look always to the United States to meet our budgetary requirements. This Government cannot be delivered to the Treasury of the United States. We need additional revenues to carry out more effectively our peace and order drive, to educate our children, to protect our people against epidemics, to provide for our national defense, and even for the normal functions of government alone. And certainly, we need additional revenues to finance and accelerate the implementation of our economic development program in order to promote a rising level of production and employment. We must convince our people not to begrudge the just share of each for

the ultimate benefit and protection of all. After all, the tax program before you places the burden on those who are able to pay and aims to correct inequalities under the present tax system.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

Some eight months ago, the majority of our people believed that the solution of our peace and order problem could be achieved primarily by the adoption of measures other than military. Even today there are some who delude themselves into believing that our peace and order problem is predominantly a social one. Social and economic measures will doubtless contribute immeasurably to the solution of this vital problem. For that reason, I have put into operation various non-military agencies to look after the welfare of the masses in various areas.

Present conditions, however, compel us to meet this problem with military force. We cannot risk losing by sheer default the priceless heritage of freedom we still enjoy.

I am pleased to note that the people and the Congress have given unqualified support for the increase in strength of the Armed Forces by ten battalion combat teams.

In behalf of our fighting men, I urge approval of the bill now before you, granting gratuity and other benefits to officers and men of the Armed Forces who become casualties in the present anti-dissident campaign. Only by doing so can we hope to do justice to our gallant men who are engaged in the heroic task of restoring peace and order in this country in the shortest possible time.

Equally urgent is our task of making available to the Armed Forces the necessary funds to make possible the retirement of officers and men who have served the country so faithfully and well and thus accelerate their replacement with younger and deserving elements.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The new year presages events of extremely serious consequences, particularly to the countries in the Far East. Almost two years ago I presented to the American people, through the U. S. Senate, their highest foreign policy-making body, to the problem of security of the free countries of Asia. I said then, and I say it now, that "I consider it my supreme responsibility in this perilous hour to call upon our friends everywhere, but especially our friends in America, not to tarry too long in the redefinition of fundamental attitudes towards Asia," in the face of growing Communist menace and aggression, for the issue involves "the fate of more than half of mankind in the next thousand years." I decried the lack of "calm, deliberate movement towards clarity, vigor, and resolution." I observed then that the reaction was suppressed or cautious concern. And I posed, "Only the blind will say that the menace does not concern America, because the history of the last two world wars shows all too clearly that this great democracy cannot remain unconcerned wherever and whenever the survival of free men in a free world is at stake."

America's immediate action last June in the defense of the freedom of South Korea justified my prediction. And we are now fighting side by side with her and the forces of the United Nations, in the plains and mountain fastnesses and ravines in Korea, in our determined adherence to the principles of peace, liberty, and justice against the forces of aggression.

Owing to the mounting tension and uncertainty, we have therefore urged for a thorough and expeditious implementation of our military assistance pact with the United States. And we have received assurances from the American Government that the United States will help us defend our national integrity and independence.

But we cannot depend entirely on foreign assistance to maintain our integrity. National honor and dignity require that we do not accept the role of a mere ward in the defense of our own liberty and freedom. Thus, we are making the utmost sacrifice to meet our internal and external obligations to enable us to contribute our just share to world security. For we can only hope that world statesmanship will eventually find a peaceful and honorable solution to the pressing problems that threaten the freedom and security of mankind.

Gentlemen of the Congress, I have come not merely to urge action, but to offer cooperation. We must pull together and assume solidarity of responsibility in the *execution* of a program for our country's preservation. I have come to ask that we all concentrate our united efforts to insure our stability as a nation and preserve our liberty as a people. This is our sworn solemn duty, and we can do no better than share cheerfully and decisively in the discharge of that great responsibility.

These are unusual times indeed. We are called upon to do our utmost in a situation in which we have never been placed before. We have to summon all our courage and intelligence and coordinate and contribute all the strength we can muster, in material and moral resources. We cannot afford to fail in meeting the present problem of survival.

Arms without valor, however powerful, are useless weapons. Valor can be aroused only by a righteous cause. This we have, and we are pledged to fight for it and if need be to die for it. We are doing that right now even beyond our borders. We are increasing our forces for this cause—the cause of innocent free men, women, and children in our midst and everywhere, ravished and destroyed by the agents of a foreign foe bent on world domination.

But we know that armed forces are not enough. We need even more critically, on the part of all of us, a moral rearmament. Our greatest enemy can be ourselves when we stubbornly resist to purge what is selfish in us. The world is not merely on the verge of fire; it is on fire. And yet people can be immobilized by fiddling and tempo razing while the nation's very life and future are at stake. Let us, as leaders of this nation, give the appropriate example in moral rearmament. Let us, to the limit of our spiritual resources, will to fight the formidable enemy, whose lust for world power has impressed many of our people, to the extent of falling for his familiar tricks of fostering dissension and subversive ambition.

At this most critical moment, our attitude has become a matter of individual and collective conscience. I call upon you to stand as one man, morally and spiritually rearmed to rise and protect our country and people from the blight of inaction and fratricidal strife in a period of the greatest peril.

Budget Message of President Quirino to the Congress of the Philippines

**Budget Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the Congress of the Philippines**

[Submitted on February 6, 1951]

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

GENTLEMEN:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution, I am submitting herewith the Budget of the National Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1952.

This Budget comprises a program of expenditures predicated upon the execution of the tax program which I recommended in my previous messages. It includes ample provision for the continuation of essential services and also provides for the necessary counterpart funds for economic development.

I consider it necessary that you be apprised at the outset of the fiscal position of the Government before you scrutinize the important items contained in the Budget. For your immediate purposes, I am giving below a comparative estimate of the receipts and expenditures for the current fiscal year and for the fiscal year 1951–1952:

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

<i>Details</i>	<i>F. Y. 1952</i>	<i>F. Y. 1951</i>
RECEIPTS		
Ordinary receipts	P373,372,500.00	P333,690,300.00
Extraordinary receipts	2,134,500.00	2,109,500.00
ADD—		
Certificates of indebtedness issued in 1950		7,037,700.00
Treasury notes issued in 1950		14,893,800.00
Treasury bills issued in 1950		15,000,000.00
Treasury bills issued in 1950 (Manila Railroad Company)		1,800,000.00
Loan from the United States Government		70,000,000.00
Loan from the International Monetary Fund		22,000,000.00
Overdraft line from the Central Bank		44,000,000.00
Advance from the Central Bank for irrigation projects (F. Y. 1949)		11,000,000.00
Advance from the Central Bank for irrigation pumps		1,000,000.00
Advance from the Central Bank for fertilizers		1,000,000.00
Advance from the Central Bank for control of abaca diseases		<u>500,000.00</u>
Total receipts, including loans and advances	<u>P375,507,000.00</u>	<u>P524,031,300.00</u>
EXPENDITURES		

Ordinary expenditures	P407,049,809.00	P376,198,853.00
Extraordinary expenditures	* 73,347,470.00	90,979,900.00
ADD—		
Repayment of advances from the Central Bank		44,000,000.00
Redemption of treasury bills due on March 31, 1951		15,000,000.00
Advance to the Manila Railroad Company		1,800,000.00
Advance to the Department of Public Works and Communications for irrigation projects (F. Y. 1949)		11,000,000.00
Advance to the Department of Public Works and Communications for irrigation pumps		1,000,000.00
Advance to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources for fertilizers		1,000,000.00
Advance to the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources for the control of abaca diseases		500,000.00
Interest on overdraft line from the Central Bank	800,000.00	800,000.00
Interest on advances for irrigation pumps and fertilizers	520,000.00	520,000.00
Interest on treasury notes	409,570.00	409,570.00
Interest on treasury certificates	140,750.00	140,750.00
Repayment of loan from the United States Reconstruction Finance Corporation	50,000,000.00	
Counterpart funds—		
Government sponsored development projects	50,000,000.00	
Public works projects	30,000,000.00	-
Total expenditures	<u>P612,267,599.00</u>	<u>P543,349,073.00</u>
Excess of expenditures over receipts	(P236,760,599.00)	(P19,317,773.00)
Add—Deficit at beginning of period	** (248,226,902.41)	(228,909,129.41)
Deficit at end of period	<u>(P484,987,501.41)</u>	<u>(P248,226,902.41)</u>

As above shown, the accumulated deficit in the General Fund up to June 30, 1950 amounted to P228,909,129.41. This deficit represents the difference between income and other receipts and expenditures. The budgetary loan of P120,000,000 from the United States Reconstruction Finance Corporation of 1947 is included in the receipts, otherwise the total deficit will be P348,909,129.41.

The total accumulated deficit as of June 30, 1952, is estimated at P484,987,501.41.

It is already known to you how the deficits which have been incurred since February 27, 1945 to the end of the current fiscal year have been financed. Prewar savings had been used up. The special funds have been drawn upon. The money market cannot be made to absorb more government securities under present conditions. The Central Bank has accommodated the Government to the full amount permitted by its Charter. I do not believe that we could continue relying on the hope that further budgetary assistance can be secured from the Government of the United States.

Under the circumstances, there is no other alternative open but for Congress to provide additional revenue in order that the Government may continue supporting the present services, to cope adequately with the additional burdens imposed by the present emergency, and provide for the requirements of those projects that increase and expand the productive capacity of the economy.

The tax measures that I have submitted are calculated to provide the means necessary for all these purposes. These measures are the key not only to balancing the budget but also to improving the financial atmosphere in order that investments both in private and public projects may increase and the unemployment problem alleviated. They are the antidote to the rising prices that even now are victimizing the lower income groups. They are vital steps that this nation must take towards economic stability and progress.

In my sincere desire to eliminate all unnecessary and wasteful spending, I created a Reorganization Commission to study and help me simplify the government machinery in order to achieve economy and efficiency. After an exhaustive and extended survey, the Commission submitted a report and a plan that would realize the maximum economy consistent with the efficiency and requirements of government service. It may be recalled that the Bell Mission itself, after a careful survey of the local scene, came to the conclusion that government expenditures could hardly be reduced. Indeed, it has pointed out that the appropriations for many services like education, agricultural extension work, and others that provide the basis for sound economic development are far from adequate.

All the expenditures outlined in this proposed Budget are vital to the maintenance of the nation's social well-being, economic and political security, and continued progress. Efforts have been exerted to avoid unnecessary or wasteful expenditure. Adaptability and adequacy for meeting and providing for the actual needs of the people has ruled the formulation of this proposed Budget.

It is easy enough to slash the Budget to even one-half of its present size, but the immediate hardship and consequent lowering of the standards of living of a great portion of our public servants and the serious repercussions on the social life of the community cannot be ignored.

Furthermore, expenditures for commerce, agriculture, and public works directly increase the national wealth. Education, health and sanitation, and security indirectly but effectively contribute to the accomplishment of the same end.

I am presenting a financial picture of the major functions of the Government, showing a comparative statement of the amount spent for each function during the last two fiscal years, and the program of expenditures recommended for the coming fiscal year:

Items	Fiscal Year 1952	Fiscal Year 1951	Fiscal Year 1950
National defense	P168,906,360.00	P147,382,335.00	P103,342,607.19
Social improvement	152,609,045.00	152,774,550.00	153,067,657.36
Economic development	161,565,709.00	73,501,280.00	99,726,970.75
General administration	64,702,525.00	80,001,250.00	56,884,343.25
Repayment of loans and advances, including interests	51,870,320.00	76,170,320.00	
Legislation	6,701,450.00	6,701,450.00	6,393,110.44
Administration of justice	<u>5,912,190.00</u>	<u>5,917,888.00</u>	<u>7,251,257.20</u>
Total	<u>P612,267,599.00</u>	<u>P543,349,073.00</u>	<u>P426,665,946.19</u>

The Department of National Defense, with an additional P16,059,565 from other items,*** has a total appropriation of P184,965,925 which is the biggest allocation in the program of expenditures. Its budget takes up 49% of the total annual revenues of the National Government and 30% of the total annual expenditures. I recommend that no reductions of this proposed appropriation be made at this time. As a token of our adherence to the United Nations, we should continue to maintain our expeditionary forces in Korea during the next fiscal year. The ten battalion combat teams authorized in Republic Act No. 591 should be organized, equipped, and put in operation without loss of time.

The prompt settlement of our peace and order problem must be accomplished. The other activities of the Government, as well as private pursuits, cannot be undertaken effectively if depredations by the lawless elements and their threat to overthrow the Government continue to exist. If funds permit, more battalion combat teams should be organized.

If we are to progress further as a nation we must continue to improve the quality of our human resources. Children must be sent to schools and the standard of instruction in these schools improved. The total appropriation for the Department of Education is P141,428,280, almost equal to its appropriation for the present fiscal year. This is 38% of the total annual income and 23% of the total annual expenditures. Suggestions have been made time and again that this appropriation be reduced. Steps in that direction have been taken but have met with little success, the main reason being that to reduce further the personnel and facilities of the schools will result in the deterioration of the present standards of instruction and the deprivation of poor children of the privileges and opportunities enjoyed by those with better means.

Furthermore, I have been informed that in the coming school year there will be a considerable increase in the number of children of school age which will necessitate the opening of new extension classes. I wish to point out that no provision has been made for such additional classes in this Budget.

In view of the conditions obtaining in our educational system, I recommend a restudy of our educational policies with a view to making further revision thereof to suit not only our financial limitations but also to improve the quality and change the emphasis of the training programs offered by the schools in favor of vocational education.

I wish also to invite your attention to the fact that the Constitution only guarantees free primary instruction. We are now, however, giving free elementary instruction including the intermediate classes. I recommend that you consider the advisability of shifting this burden to local governments and of granting them authority to charge tuition fees as a means to raise funds for the maintenance of those classes.

I have created a Social Welfare Administration which now exercises the combined functions of the former Social Welfare Commission, the PACSA and the War Relief Unit. This was done not only to achieve economy but also to make the distribution of relief more efficacious and equitable. I have requested the restoration of the former appropriation of P4,000,000 for the PACSA. This is necessary because of the increased activities of the dissidents which, as a consequence, will also increase the number of victims to be given relief. Humanitarian considerations must counterbalance the strong measures being taken against those who would listen to no entreaties for the restoration of normal life in our country.

In spite of limited appropriations for the Department of Health, we were fortunate in that no epidemic has visited our country since liberation. Reduction of the appropriation for this department would not redound to the best interests and welfare of the people.

The volume of work performed by the bureaus and offices under the Department of Public Works and Communications does not warrant the reduction of their appropriations. I wish to invite your attention at this juncture to the many rehabilitation projects awaiting appropriations. The maintenance of existing public improvements has been neglected for sometime. I recommend for your immediate consideration the necessity of providing appropriations for this purpose not only for the continuance of services heretofore rendered but also to prevent deterioration and consequent loss of properties in which considerable funds have been invested.

In the program of expenditures, I have included a reasonable amount of P50,000,000 for government sponsored development projects and P30,000,000 for public works projects which are necessary counterpart funds to step up the tempo of our economic development. Our efforts should be directed towards increasing the production of the established industries and diversifying the pattern of production in the economy. By moving aggressively in the direction of planning and programming our projects in detail and by providing the incentives, particularly the indispensable public works projects in the production areas, we may yet lay the foundations in our generation for vigorous and stable economic growth.

The tax program I have submitted to you is a vital cornerstone of our economic policy. We depend upon it to enable the Government to operate efficiently without deficit spending. We depend upon it to relieve the inflationary pressure that excess buying power is exerting on prices. We depend upon it to reduce the level of demand for high importation of non-essential consumption items and the pressure on the international reserve. And we depend upon it to provide a non-inflationary source of financing of our economic development program and reducing unemployment.

We would be doing the public a disservice if we do not recognize that we are in difficult financial circumstances. But with determination, diligence, and careful planning, I am confident that we will emerge successfully from these financial difficulties. And with the intensive and vigorous campaign we have launched to insure our internal security, I am hopeful that before long the proper climate for concentrated economic development will be created. By then, we will be in a position to reduce considerably the enormous appropriations we are setting aside for national defense and allow us to accelerate our program to raise the level of well-being of the people.

Respectfully,

ELPIDIO QUIRINO
President of the Philippines

THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
Manila

* This includes counterpart funds amounting to P3,334,440 representing departmental development expenditures.

** The loan of P120,000,000 from the US-RFC was included in the receipts for the fiscal year 1946-47.

*** The P16,059,565 is due to the following items placed under other functional classifications:

1.	Appropriation for Office of the Secretary (Gen. Adm.)	P122,180.00
2.	Pensions for veterans of past Philippine revolutions, etc. (Pensions & gratuities)	2,045,200.00
3.	Philippine Constabulary (Law & Order)	12,658,760.00
4.	Bureau of Coast & Geodetic Survey (Dev. of Commerce)	1,083,425.00
5.	For payment of claims of deceased Filipino members of the U. S. Ground Forces (Pensions and gratuities)	<u>150,000.00</u>
		<u>P16,059,565.00</u>

Source: **Presidential Museum and Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Budget message of President Elpidio Quirino to the Congress of the Philippines, submitted February 6, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(2), 622-627.

Message of President Quirino to the Congress of the Philippines submitting the 1953 Budget of the National Government

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the Congress of the Philippines submitting the 1953 Budget of the National Government**

[Released on, February 12, 1952]

February 12, 1952

GENTLEMEN:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19(1), Article VI, of the Constitution, I am submitting herewith the Budget of the National Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1953, the resume of which is as follows:

Receipts	₱587,776,240.00
Expenditures	<u>587,231,475.00</u>
Surplus	<u>₱544,765.00</u>

The total receipts exceed those of 1951 by 189 million pesos; those of 1952 by an estimated 7 million pesos. These increases have been generated by the tax measures enacted in your regular and special sessions of 1950 and 1951, as well as by the continuing efforts of the tax collecting agencies of the Government to collect all taxes due.

I do not intend to recommend new tax measures. I believe that the present revenue collections can still be increased, first, by further improvement and intensification of tax collection, and, second, by accelerating our economic development activities to increase the nation's taxable wealth.

I recommend, however, that the effectivity of certain of our tax laws which will expire during the coming [fiscal year be extended. The impairment, even temporarily, of the improving finances [of the Government must be avoided. The income from the tax measures approved last year represents about thirty-five per centum (35%) of the total tax revenues.

The expenditures proposed have been brought to the minimum required to meet the most essential public services. There is no doubt that more funds are needed for rehabilitation and 'for supplying the increasing needs for governmental services of our growing population that cannot be adequately provided for by the sum requested in this budget. Budgetary requests amounting to nearly 200 million pesos in excess of present authorized appropriations had to be pruned to within the total estimated receipts.

The total estimated income for the incoming year, compared with those for this year and last year, is distributed among the major functions of the Government as follows:

		Fiscal Year 1953	Fiscal Year 1952	Fiscal Year 1951
1.	National defense	₱152,748,110.00	₱147,192,246.60	₱105,450,447.70
2.	Social	165,273,510.00	147,496,322.35	149,270,728.26

	improvement			
3.	Economic development	56,912,935.00	49,051,310.20	54,184,474.75
4.	General administration	135,773,355.00	144,344,446.99	68,756,596.34
5.	Repayment of loans and advances, including interests	62,092,015.00	69,172,205.00	45,198,284.16
6.	Legislation	7,974,490.00	6,105,070.00	6,678,957.18
7.	Administration of justice	6,457,060.00	5,929,017.00	5,696,539.20
	Total	₱587,231,475.00	₱569,290,618.14	₱435,236,027.59

I consider the national defense and economic development plans for the coming year of paramount importance. They take precedence over other governmental services. It is upon their successful prosecution and accomplishment that the carrying out of other governmental undertakings depends. Without peace and order, no governmental activity can be normally carried out. Likewise, if the national economy is not developed, a higher level of production and employment cannot be achieved, governmental revenues cannot be increased except by oppressive tax laws, and public services cannot be administered to respond in full to the needs of our people.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

It is proposed to appropriate ₱187,300,675 for the Department of National Defense. This is ₱11,537,565 more than the appropriation for the same purpose this fiscal year. It represents thirty-two per centum (32%) of the total estimated revenues for next year. The increase represents the amounts set aside for the adjustment of salaries to the minimum rate, and for the intensification of the peace and order campaign, including the purchase of loose firearms, and the payment of pensions and gratuities to the officers and men who die or are disabled in line of duty.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

This Administration has embarked, since its inception, upon an all-out, short and long range economic development program. Results so far achieved, I am sure, give no ground for any disparagement. Advancement of the nation's economy is one of the factors that bring prosperity to the people and stability to the rendition of governmental services. Ten per centum (10%) of our general fund revenues is devoted to the prosecution of the economic development program. This does not include the advances of the Central Bank under Republic Act No. 265 for the construction of irrigation systems and of power and other industrial projects. It likewise does not include expected ECA assistance and the counterpart funds. The latter consists of the ₱50 million you have authorized for 1952 and ₱34 million that is being requested in this budget for 1953.

It is a pleasure to inform you that about \$47 million of ECA assistance has been earmarked for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1952. Of this amount, \$45 million has already been programmed and allocated, by mutual agreement between PHILCUSA and the ECA Mission, among the Various development projects in agriculture, public works, transportation, handicrafts and manufacturing industries, education, public health and technical assistance, including the training of Filipino technicians abroad. The balance of \$2 million is to be programmed this fiscal year. For the project commodities that have begun to arrive or are scheduled for delivery up to the middle of the next fiscal year, we are committed to provide a counterpart fund of equivalent value in pesos. For this purpose, as above mentioned,

there is being proposed an additional ₱34 million for counterpart purposes the joining year, of which ₱25 million will cover our commitments under the ECA program in 1953, and ₱9 million for administrative and operational expenses of the various development projects already approved.

EDUCATION

We have appropriated ₱134,877,805 for the Department of Education this year. I am proposing an appropriation of ₱145,899,840 for the next fiscal year, involving an increase of ₱11,022,035. The latter represents twenty-five per centum (25%) of our total revenues. This amount is still insufficient for carrying out our educational work satisfactorily. The double-single session plan for the primary grades and the one-teacher-one-class arrangement for the intermediate grades are far from satisfactory.

We need additional appropriation of ₱7,000,000 for the opening of 3,000 new classes next school year to take care of children who will then reach school age. It is not possible to provide this amount from the expected income of the National Government without sacrificing other equally pressing governmental services.

This is the same problem which we had last year. We proposed then to amend the 1940 Educational Act so as to transfer the support of the intermediate classes from the National to the local governments. I earnestly urge the Congress to examine again the measures proposed to solve this difficulty. I believe that the finances of the local governments should be strengthened to enable them to share in the responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the elementary classes above the primary grades. To carry out this proposal gradually, the support of at least one grade of the intermediate classes may be transferred to the cities and municipalities.

I am not unmindful of the fact that various municipalities are also in financial straits. But proper attention to the assessment and collection of local revenues and a systematic budgeting of their expenditures should go a long way towards alleviating the situation. It may be advisable to re-create the municipal school funds in order that the operation and maintenance of these schools may be made more stable. Subject to adequate supervision, the establishment of private intermediate schools may well be encouraged.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The enactment of the Minimum Wage Law is a long stride towards social security. As this law fixes the minimum daily wage of a laborer in government offices at ₱4 effective July 1, 1952, the lowest annual salary or wage of a clerk or laborer under the budget has been raised to ₱1,440 per annum or ₱120 per month. It involves an additional appropriation of ₱12 million. The minimum rates of compensation of physicians and nurses employed by the Government have also been increased in conformity with the provisions of Republic Acts Nos. 664 and 649, that of physicians to ₱2,400 while those of nurses have been graduated from ₱1,680 to ₱3,300 per annum. This readjustment involves a total outlay of ₱468,000.

Another social security measure you approved in your second session provides for retirement gratuities of government officers and employees. The resulting annual government contribution to the retirement fund amounts to ₱9,200,000. This is an additional budget charge. It is greatly hoped that the objectives of this retirement law, not only to provide rewards for long and meritorious service, but also to stabilize and improve civil service morale, will be achieved.

PUBLIC WORKS

It is proposed to appropriate ₱25 million for public works next year, as against the amount of ₱35 million appropriated for the same purpose this year. I do not wish to convey the impression that I am not giving due importance to the construction, reconstruction and repair of permanent public improvements, especially our road system. It is my belief, however, that, even with this reduction, we will have enough funds for our public works projects during the next fiscal year. The Highway Special Fund had a balance as of December 31, 1951, of ₱93,492,148.26. Part of this amount may be used to cover the deficiency in the regular public works appropriation in a manner that will not cripple the prosecution of the projects under that Fund. In addition, negotiations are under

way for the provision of the amounts needed to construct the permanent public improvements programmed under ECA assistance, particularly the construction of the planned road system for Mindanao.

RELIEF FUNDS

I earnestly again urge that the fund for the relief of the victims of typhoons, earthquakes, flood, fires and similar disasters and calamities be restored to ₱4,000,000. I never before felt so strongly the need for this fund as when the Hibok Hibok erupted and the severe typhoons struck the southern island last year. The Administration, in coordination with the Philippine National Red Cross, has done its best to give succor to the sufferers in the form of food, clothing, medicine and shelter. The lack of available funds to cope with the situation compelled me to make a public appeal for voluntary contributions. Although there was immediate response, the amount collected was unfortunately insufficient. More adequate and much needed relief could have been given by the Government if it had the necessary funds at its immediate disposal. Until now, the resettlement work on behalf of the people displaced by the Hibok Hibok eruption has not been fully carried out. Funds are lacking for the purpose. The amount herein requested will also be used for the relief and rehabilitation of dissidents who peacefully surrender to the Government and of civilians who may be deprived temporarily of means to earn a livelihood due to depredations committed by lawless elements or as a result of military operations.

FORCED SAVINGS

In the current General Appropriation Act, Congress required a forced savings of four per centum (4%) from the appropriations of each department, bureau or office. These items of "saving to be made" amount to ₱13,884,285. They were imposed in many cases indiscriminately and without consideration of actual needs, thereby upsetting considerably the spending program of each office. To prevent the recurrence of these hardships and inconveniences in the administration of our finances, I ask for the discontinuance of the forced savings provisions in the appropriation act for the fiscal year 1952-1953.

BUDGETARY DEFICITS AND PUBLIC DEBT

The deficits in the general fund accumulated since February 27, 1945, amounted to ₱175,283,592.87 on June 30, 1951, which were ₱53,625,536.54 less than the accumulated deficits of ₱228,909,129.41 in June, 1950. It is estimated that on June 30, 1952, the accumulated deficits will be about ₱173,200,000 and ₱172,700,000 on June 30, 1953. If actual revenue collections exceed the budgetary estimates, as they have exhibited a consistent tendency to do so these past few years, and/or the authorized appropriations are not all expended, the accumulated deficits will be automatically amortized and reduced by the excess of collections and the savings in expenditures at the end of each fiscal year.

The public debt amounted on June 30, 1951, to ₱1,027,037,561.69. As of December 31, 1951, the over-all total of the public debt amounted to ₱809,210,515.53. The decrease since June 30, 1951, was largely due to the final payment made by this Government to the United States Treasury of all the pre-1934 bonds issued in the United States and the reduction in the previous estimate of backpay obligations from ₱400 million to ₱300 million. Of the December 31, 1951, balance, ₱71,953,699.63 pertain to the provincial, municipal and city governments and to government corporations (excluding back pay), while ₱737,256,815.90 pertain to the National Government (including back pay of provinces, cities and municipalities and the government corporations).

The composition of this indebtedness of ₱737,256,815.90 of the National Government is as follows: (a) back pay, ₱300,000,000; (b) advances by the Central Bank for rehabilitation and economic development, ₱200,000,000; (c) budgetary loans of 1947 and 1950 from the United States Government and the International Monetary Fund, ₱195,200,000; (d) budgetary loans by certificates of indebtedness, treasury bills and treasury notes, ₱38,931,500; (e) permanent improvement loan of 1941, ₱2,500,000; and (f) the 1951 land purchase loan, ₱625,315.90.

Our total public indebtedness of ₱809,210,515.53 represents a per capita obligation of ₱40. The entire debt of the National Government is relatively very small, whether considered on a per capita basis or in relation to the taxing capacity of the Government.

As against the reduction in our accumulated deficits and public indebtedness, our accumulated expenditures for permanent public improvements and for investments have considerably increased largely due to the following items: For rehabilitation of government corporations and contribution to government-owned and private financial institutions, ₱105,857,802.52; for permanent public works, such as ports, piers, wharves, irrigation works, river controls, roads, bridges, etc., paid from the General Fund, ₱149,386,068.85; for the reconstruction of school buildings, ₱53,446,138.90, or a total capital investment of more than ₱308,690,010.27.

BALANCED BUDGET

During the current fiscal year, and for the first time since liberation, the budget is finally being balanced. Likewise, we shall have a balanced budget for the next fiscal year. I have taken definite steps to avoid overdrafts. Administrative Order No. 178, which I append to this Budget requires all spending services of the Government to program their activities within the amounts appropriated for them. This Order makes any official responsible for incurring an overdraft personally liable therefor. I am also requiring a careful and continuing scrutiny of income and expenditures so that immediate steps may be taken to prevent overdrafts in case income decreases below the estimates upon which the annual appropriations are based.

Thus, the financial difficulties that appeared well-nigh insurmountable during the past few years have definitely been overcome. With favorable climate for the expansion of economic activity, public revenues are increasing. We must spare no effort to keep up the trends. We must maintain and strengthen the gains already made.

We still have vast projects requiring large financing. The peace and order campaign which every citizen of this country is desirous to see happily terminated must be followed through. Every peso that this campaign will need must be provided. The prosecution of the agricultural and industrial development program must be accelerated and intensified. Our ultimate objectives of increased production to provide greater opportunities for fuller employment and higher standards of living must be achieved. All these challenge our vision, statesmanship and courageous decision.

We have already created conditions in our country during the past few years which have enhanced our credit abroad and placed us in a position to concentrate our attention on further constructive pursuits. The record of this Congress in its last two sessions has given ample evidence of high statesmanship and determination towards the strengthening of this position. In this, I cannot but give full assurance of my wholehearted cooperation. Our people cannot expect less of us during your present session.

Respectfully,

The CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
MANILA

ELPIDIO QUIRINO
President of the Philippines

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). Message of President Quirino to the Congress of the Philippines submitting the 1953 Budget of the National Government. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 48(2)*, 517-521.

Message of President Quirino to both Houses of Congress

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To both Houses of Congress, recommending the extension of the special quota of 1,200 American Citizens
under the Executive Agreement entered into between the Philippines and the United States on July 4, 1946**

[Delivered on March 18, 1952]

Sirs:

I refer to Article VI (2) of the Executive Agreement between the Philippines and the United States, entered into on July 4, 1946 entitled "AN AGREEMENT CONCERNING TRADE AND RELATED MATTERS," which provides as follows:

"2. There shall be permitted to enter the Philippines, without regard to any numerical limitations under the laws of the Philippines, in each of the Calendar years 1946 to 1951, both inclusive, 1,200 citizens of the United States, each of whom shall be entitled to remain in the Philippines for 5 years."

This Agreement was entered into by the President of the United States of America through his duly empowered Plenipotentiary in pursuance of an act of the United States Congress (Philippine Trade Act of 1946) with the President of the Philippines, acting pursuant to the provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 733.

The special quota of 1,200 a year was in addition to the regular quota of 500 under the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940 which was later on reduced to 50 by Republic Act No. 503 approved on June 12, 1950. It was intended for American citizens and their families who were proceeding to the Philippines as technicians directly connected with rehabilitation activities of the Philippine Government or of private organizations. In practice, however, especially during the time of the late President Roxas, a liberal policy was followed in the allocation of these special quota numbers to American citizens as long as there was an indication that their work or business would aid in the rehabilitation of the country.

With the special quota no longer available after December 31, 1951 in accordance with the above-mentioned Agreement, and with the regular quota reduced from 500 to 50, it is not now possible for a large number of American citizens to come to the Philippines for business or employment. They may not come in as temporary visitors because temporary visitors are not allowed to engage in any work in this country. Besides their stay would necessarily be limited to only one year.

The United States Embassy has informally approached our Government to explore the possibility of extending the special quota of 1,200 to American citizens under the Agreement through some kind of understanding or supplementary agreement.

I believe that there is no question as to the desirability of, if not the need for, the continued entry of this class of special quota immigrants in the interest of our economic development program. They are mostly executives and skilled technicians and do not therefore offer any competition to Filipinos engaged in the same activities.

However, unlike other kinds of executive agreement which are entered into by the President by virtue of his independent power as Commander-in-Chief or the sole constitutional organ for the conduct of foreign relations, this Philippine-United States Agreement concerning trade and related matters was made in pursuance of a legislative authorization granted by a specific statute passed by the United States Congress authorizing the President of the United States to enter into it by virtue of a law passed by our own Congress granting a similar authorization to the President of the Philippines. It seems clear, therefore, that any modification or amendment to be introduced into any

of the commitments of the Philippines under that Agreement needs either a prior authorization from the Congress of the Philippines or subsequent legislative approval in order that such modification or amendment may become valid and effective.

In view thereof, I propose to instruct the Secretary of Foreign Affairs to begin negotiations with the United States Government for the conclusion of a supplementary agreement extending the operation of Article VI, paragraph 2, of the Agreement for another five calendar years beginning 1952, subject to the same causes of termination as those provided for in Article X, paragraph 2, of the Agreement. I shall appreciate the concurrence of the Senate (and House of Representatives) to this proposed course of action for the reasons stated above.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Message of President Quirino to both Houses of Congress. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(3), 985-986.

Elpidio Quirino, Fourth State of the Nation Address, January 28, 1952

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the Congress
On the State of the Nation**

[Released on January 28, 1952]

MR. PRESIDENT, MR. SPEAKER,

MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS:

I welcome you once again as you begin this third session of the Second Congress. I welcome, especially, the distinguished new members of the Senate. Our people have willed that the ranks of the opposition be bolstered. The fiscalizing mission of the minority will thus have greater opportunity of accomplishment. It is my hope that in such a task it will be as fruitfully effective as it should be patriotically cooperative, ever mindful of our joint responsibility to keep this nation always unified. The institutions which we have built and the Republic which we have erected belong to us, one and all, for us to honor and protect.

The age in which we live and the international association with which we chose to be identified make us conscious in every phase of our lives that we have a country to defend, to develop for our people's welfare, and to strengthen as a bastion for internal peace and for the peace of the world.

The facts of history require us to consider under the present world set-up that, while there are still leading nations, no longer are there big and small nations apart from one another. We are divided into groups, practically into two major groups—one believing in a world order under the theory of enslavement by a dominating power, the other under the theory of co-existence based upon the collective authority of free democratic governments. The former fosters chaos and confusion to gain adherents, the latter develops the spirit of self-help to strengthen each unit as a composite integral part of a world organization dedicated to universal peace.

You and I, regardless of party alignments, have but one purpose: to seek the welfare and happiness of our people. In serving them, often we have had different points of view. We shall perhaps differ time and again in approach and in procedure, but never in fundamentals. Differences are salutary when born out of individual freedom—of thought and action, and restrained by unity of purpose—love and solidarity of our fellow countrymen. Provided we always keep in mind, as we did in the last sessions of the Congress, that all we, each of us, are trying to do, is to contribute our utmost in promoting the safety and well-being of our people, democracy will flourish as a vital dominating force in our national life.

We showed this in our last popular experiment. Whatever the consequences to us politically, we secured the free and untrammelled expression of the people's will, for only on the rock of democracy can we build a free Philippines.

To build it required centuries of sacrifice in blood and treasure. Layer by layer, stone on stone, on the bones and ashes of those who preceded us, each generation in its epoch and in its regime left the sediment of its labor and influence to give us the country that is ours today. Thus, whatever we have at this hour, everything that we enjoy, did not come about full-grown overnight, is not solely the work of today. It is the result of a continuing process, as each, in his time, contributes his genius and vision as well as his sweat and sinew to leave to those who follow a country better than he found it, winning for it with each passing year a growing measure of admiration and respect.

And as we look back and realize the vicissitudes and misfortunes that have been our people's lot in the recent past, devastated and torn to pieces as we were, it should give us renewed courage that not only did we survive, but that we survived with dignity and honor.

Today, this our epoch is one of economic and political survival, of internal and external security. How did we reach it? I shall now report on how we have been contributing our modest share in the last three or four years and dwell on the important phases of our national life and the processes which led us to the status we now enjoy.

BACKGROUND

But before doing so, allow me to review in brief retrospect our struggle for survival. You will recall that when we reconstituted the Commonwealth Government in 1945, we had an economy left prostrate by the war. We did not have the revenues needed to finance the normal functions of government. We had to seek relief and assistance from the United States to supplement the meager P36,000,000 available in the General Fund. Relief and assistance were granted us in various forms: in foodstuffs, clothing, other relief goods of all kinds, surplus equipment and supplies of the United States forces in the Philippines, and cash in the form of war damage payments, pensions, gratuities, and grants and loans.

Our people, denied of even the essentials during the Japanese occupation, reacted to this sudden flow of help by spending much too freely for their own good. At the same time, loose firearms in the hands of people who helped us in our liberation abound everywhere; still trigger-happy, many individuals organized themselves into bands, enjoying as well as endangering life in the outlying districts, and even in our midst, at the point of the gun. This fact as well as the moral trauma resultant of the war and vestigial inequalities rooted in centuries of servitude unfortunately led unscrupulous and misguided people to graft and corruption, to disorder, and gradually to dissidence.

Thus, when we entered upon the first phase of this administration, which was merely a continuation of the Roxas regime cut short by the demise in 1948 of our dear friend, President Roxas, we were faced with two great problems: the maintenance of peace and order and the strengthening of the confidence of the people in their government—both of which occupied my mind upon my assumption of office. This brief but painful interlude in our political odyssey aroused fear and distrust both here and abroad. Our first step was to purge the government of dishonest officials. We ordered the investigation of the Philippine Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (PRRA) and later the Surplus Property Commission, which were the foci of infection. The investigation of the first brought forth negligible results, but the investigation of the second resulted in the dismissal, prosecution, and conviction of many of its personnel. The investigation was extended to other branches of the government and, similarly, other dismissals, prosecutions, and convictions were the result.

Simultaneously, we directed our attention to the suppression of banditry and dissidence, offering to the latter amnesty which shortly thereafter—not through the fault of the government—was repudiated. But we were not discouraged and continued unabated our moral crusade and campaign for peace and order. These problems became more complicated as internal discontent, disturbance, and insecurity increased. As if these were not enough, the clamor for back pay and the murmurings of rice crisis and recurrent school crisis harassed us. On top of these came the grave problems affecting our external security. We were poor, deep in debt, assailed and embarrassed in our struggle for stability. And we were drawn into a struggle not only for our national survival, but also for that of democracy in a world rent by an ideological warfare that had congealed into a cold war.

INTERNAL SECURITY

We had to reorganize and strengthen our armed forces to cope with the increasingly grave situation. We intensified our peace and order campaign, adopting new methods of dealing with the local foe as we prepared to face him in Korea.

The large gains made in the campaign this past year are now of public knowledge, and given due recognition here and abroad. We still have elements inspired from abroad plotting unlawful seizure of governmental power,

constantly seeking "to undermine the land of their birth in the interest of the land of their ideology." They were in a fair way to accomplishing their nefarious plans but for the systematic and determined action by the defense forces of the Republic which not only nullified and frustrated, but also dispersed these covert elements and disrupted their time-table. With excellent intelligence work we were able to round up the members of their politburo and secured their prosecution and conviction. There are now more surrenderees than captives or Huk casualties; many of them are settled in government farms with their families, awaiting the routine process to make their present landholdings their own. By a more intensive follow-up in our campaign and more extensive realization of our program of constructive attraction, we hope to achieve the permanent eradication of the threat that the subverters posed.

I must apprise you of the fact that the operations to restore peace have not been without their cost. The casualty total is roughly 900, with 350 killed and 550 wounded. There are approximately 1,500 men in our army hospitals. For those who unselfishly and heroically gave their lives, for their widows and orphans, I bespeak your heartfelt support and assistance.

I wish, in solemn gratification, to stress the record of courage and heroism of our troops in Korea. They have covered themselves with glory and made every Filipino proud. Through their sacrifices we are giving our stint in the epic fight for freedom and peace.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Our country saw during the past year a remarkable improvement in its general economic condition. A coordinated set of remedial measures in the monetary, fiscal, and production fields, together with improvements in administrative organization, and in the peace and order condition, dispelled almost overnight the despondency and irrational apprehension that seemed to have caught hold of business and or productive segments of the agricultural population. General confidence increased and with it came a new resolve on the part of our people to make this land a haven of peace and prosperity for the coming generations.

Stimulated by favorable international prices after the outbreak of the Korean War, the production of our export industries expanded. This favorable turn of events together with the strict conservation measures adopted during 1950 enabled us to raise substantially the level of our international reserve and to introduce a series of measures, which had the immediate welcome effect of temporarily liberalizing the control over imports.

The psychological effect of these measures as well as the substantial amounts of goods that came during 1951 were two of the main influences that pulled down prices to levels more consistent with the income earned by the great mass of our people.

Contributing in no small degree to the restoration of stability in internal prices were the measures taken towards the end of 1950 and during 1951 to increase the revenue of the government. All these efforts were complemented by a restrictive credit policy on the part of banking institutions which brought about a further reduction in the money supply.

As a result of these measures, the cost of living which rose from June 1950 for a year has dropped substantially since. Meanwhile, production improved greatly not only in the export industries but in other fields, especially mining and manufacturing. The index on the physical volume of production has risen from 97.5 in 1950 to 107.1 in 1951, with 1937 as a base. There is more manufacturing activity going on now than ever before in the history of this country. National income for 1951 was P5,120,000,000 as against P4,608,000,000 in 1950. This rapid increase in productive activity reflects considerable new investment, both foreign and domestic, in plants and equipment which would not have been made had there been no restoration of confidence in the future progress and stability of this country. Inquiries from parties' abroad contemplating investment of capital in the Philippines have been on the increase, and our economic recovery has been the subject of favorable comments on the part of many competent observers abroad.

Several of the basic development projects that the government has financed are in advanced stages of construction. The power projects, such as the Lumot Diversion Project, already completed, the Maria Cristina Hydroelectric

Power and Fertilizer plants both to be completed at the end of this year, and the Ambuklao Hydroelectric Power Projects, now also under construction, will give a tremendous boost not only to industrial development but also to a more diversified rural economy. The funds provided for the construction of irrigation projects and the purchase of fertilizers give further assurance of our steady march toward the attainment of self-sufficiency in food crops, especially rice. The construction of additional textile mills such as the one now in operation in Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, represents the beginning of an effort on our part to reduce this country's dependence on outside sources for one of the elemental necessities of life.

The immediate result of the economic measures we have adopted during the past year and a half is to preserve for our people the real value of their worldly possessions. The inflation in prices has been not only arrested but rolled back, thus restoring especially to the lower income brackets the real goods and services that they could claim with their money income. The operation of the minimum wage and tax laws implemented last year brought about a wider and more equitable distribution of the money income in the economy as a whole. Together with the reduction in price levels, these measures could be expected to bring about a permanent improvement in the welfare of our people.

Our international economic relations and prestige have also improved as a result of the change for the better in our domestic situation. The regard in which the Philippine peso is held in international markets today is so much higher than a year ago. No longer is its value doubted. It is regarded as one of the most stable in the world. Thus, our ability as an independent and sovereign people to manage our own economic affairs is no longer underrated.

GOVERNMENT FINANCES

Our record in the field of fiscal policy in the past year is worth underscoring. It is well known that government finances have been severely strained during these postwar years due to the mounting expenditures for defense and peace and order, for public instruction to keep abreast of the increasing school population, for the reconstruction of war-damaged facilities, for the rehabilitation of government corporations, and for reactivating services paralyzed during the last war. The time since liberation has been too short for the country to recover from the ravages of the war. Consequently the national economy could not yield sufficient revenue from taxes or other sources to meet not only current irreducible expenditures but also extraordinary expenditures for economic rehabilitation and development and for various urgent social services.

The seriousness of the situation at the end of 1950 was such that in my Message to the Congress on January 22, 1951, I said that 1951 was a year exceptionally heavy with decision and destiny; that your actions during your second regular session might spell the difference between irreparable disaster and survival to our country.

It reflects creditably on the patriotism of the members of the Congress that you proved equal to the situation. Under the most adverse conditions, you approved revenue measures that enabled the country to cope with the emergency. Never before have our revenues been as high as they are in the current fiscal year. I shall deal on this subject in greater detail in my budget message.

For the time being, I am particularly happy to report that during this period we were able to complete the final payment on all pre-1934 dollar-bonded indebtedness in the United States. We are on the way to liquidating the advances from the fiduciary and special funds. For some time now we have not borrowed from the banks for budgetary purposes. We have resumed paying some of our sinking fund obligations including the first installment on the loan secured from the United States Treasury. And we have been able successfully to convert, after paying an amortization and interest of P7.1 million, our \$60 million loan with the United States Reconstruction Finance Corporation from a two-year into a ten-year loan payable in equal twenty semi-annual installments starting January, 1952.

ECA AID

With this improvement in our financial climate, the government of the United States began the implementation in this country of the program of economic assistance promised in the Quirino-Foster Agreement. ECA aid began flowing into our economy in the form of fertilizers, irrigation pumps, grants for the rehabilitation of agricultural

colleges and the establishment of experimental stations and extension services, eradication of plant diseases, land survey and road building programs in Mindanao and other areas, public health promotion, survey of basic mineral resources, and promotion of cottage industries. It is our hope that in the coming months, this flow of assistance will continue to increase in volume, for there is no doubt that it will accelerate our progress towards a higher level of production.

But while we are perhaps entitled to take pride in these substantial achievements, we cannot relax in our efforts to put this country on a truly stable economic basis. There is much still that remains to be done. The discipline that we have had to impose on ourselves over the past years cannot as yet be relaxed. The last two years have given us some time to acquire valuable administrative experience in the operation of economic controls. The maintenance of these controls is still necessary for the public welfare. They can only be removed after the necessary adjustments have been made in our international economic relations. It is vital that we review our trade agreement with the United States, in order that it may be placed on a more equitable basis, in keeping with present-day circumstances in both countries. A readjustment is essential to our achievement of a more stable and balanced economy.

While it is true that we have attained a measure of financial stability in the domestic as well as in the international field, it is still necessary for us to continue exercising discretion and vigilance in the expenditures not only of public but also of private resources. We must at times remember that our financial resources are limited and that the greatest care is needed to insure their use in the most efficient manner possible. Having committed ourselves to a policy of economic development as the only solution to the problem of poverty and under-production, we must mobilize all our resources and exercise the greatest care in their investment. While the assistance of our friend and ally, the United States, would materially accelerate this process, only our own resources can support it on a permanent basis. Fundamentally, the spirit behind the ECA aid is development through self-help. Only by showing this spirit can we expect more substantial help than what we have heretofore received. ECA is not manna or a substitute for dole, much less a premium to complacency.

And while we were able to bring down prices substantially, our vigil over inflation is far from over. We are fortunate that while the great nations of the world are engulfed in an inflationary wave under the impact of huge military programs, we here in the Philippines have controlled it and have prevented its running away with our earthly possessions. We must keep it controlled by limiting our expenditures to truly essential purposes and well within the revenues which we are capable of producing.

LABOR, RELIEF, AND SOCIAL SECURITY

We have established a group of governmental activities which deal with the satisfaction of the basic needs of our citizenry. Our people ask for little after their need for security—the security of their person, their property, and their freedom,—has been vouchsafed to them. But our government as any other present-day government has gone further. We have endeavored to assist the citizen in his efforts to build up a small competence for himself and his dependents. We have therefore emphasized the administration of the public resources in a manner to provide work and earning opportunities for the citizen to secure him food, shelter, and clothing, as well as, if possible, a modicum of sustenance and comfort in sickness and old age.

We have constantly been improving the pay of those who occupy the common ranks of both public and private employment. This past year we passed the minimum wage law. But it will perhaps be necessary to revise this legislation as well, as the Workmen's Compensation Act and the 8-hour labor law to make them easier of enforcement and more compatible with present conditions and exigencies. The same thing should be done with the Rice Tenancy Law so as to clarify existing doubts regarding the application of the 70-30 sharing in the harvest. We shall continue the furtherance of the protection being accorded the individual laboring man. For his health and security, as well as for the protection of his rights, a vigorous campaign for the enforcement of the laws enacted for his benefit, which are also for the preservation of his employer, is being waged and shall continue unabatedly.

The welfare of our workers who have seen fit to search for well-being abroad will likewise be our continuing concern.

As important in our agenda on behalf of labor, is that which deals with land distribution and settlement. This last year, 1,686 settlers, not counting their dependents, have been accommodated in land reservations in Cotabato, Bukidnon, Lanao, and Isabela. Our settlement projects today have a total population of 115,000. These do not include families from Luzon and the Visayas who of their own accord go to Mindanao under the law you have authorized. Resettlement work will be pushed through with more intelligence and vigor. The great purpose of this project must not be lost in its detail. It is to vouchsafe to each man a place truly his own. It is not to increase the holdings of those who already have, or to increase the number of absentee landlords. These groups do not need government assistance. They are capable of taking care of themselves. Settlers shall therefore be selected from areas where feudalistic tenancy still persists to the present day. In view of the limited areas available for settlement in proportion to the great number of landless people, it may be necessary to consider the grouping of such settlers to operate government farms under contractual arrangements. In this way, we could accelerate the production of the staple commodities of which we are in daily demand.

For our floating labor populations in industrial communities, I wish to inform you of the progress in our housing program. The housing program for the low-salaried in both public and private employments in the City of Manila is being accelerated. One thousand seven hundred seventy one housing units have been built at a cost of over P5 million since 1948. The construction of 655 more is being completed in a few months. Our target for this year is a total of 3,500.

A salutary consequence of this program is the awakened interest that private investors have developed in undertaking similar low-cost housing projects in Iloilo, Baguio, and other centers of population. I have just organized the Home Financing Commission created by Act No. 580 you have recently enacted to supplement and coordinate our home construction policy.

Our disaster relief activities have been effective these past two years. But although well coordinated, they need better support. We felt this great necessity during the last two devastating typhoons, the worst in many years in the Visayan provinces, and during the recent eruption of the Hibok-Hibok Volcano. We have leaned heavily upon our people for voluntary assistance to the victims and casualties of these disasters. I wish to stress the necessity of restoring the appropriation originally given to the Action Committee on Social Amelioration, now merged with the Social Welfare Administration, in order to provide for adequate relief for victims in such disasters and other calamities, especially the recent typhoon sufferers.

The victims of the 1951 public disasters will take years to rehabilitate themselves. The coconut industry in the Visayas has been practically totally damaged. In many places it cannot be restored to productivity except by replanting. This means for the next three to seven years sectors of our population dependent upon that industry for a livelihood will have to shift elsewhere. The damages to the sugar, corn, and rice industries are not as extensive but they have set back these industries and their repercussions will be felt in the coming months.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Other than the consequences of the great disasters that occurred during the year, the state of the public health may be considered normal. No epidemic visited the country. The birth rate increased; the total crude death rate decreased. Infant mortality also decreased. At the inception of every natural disaster, public health forces were immediately deployed to take care of casualties and to prevent the development of epidemics.

We must continue to improve the public health to conserve manpower for the development of our agricultural, industrial, and other natural resources. We have made notable progress in lessening the scourge of malaria, tuberculosis, malnutrition, mental ailments, and other debilitating diseases.

Environmental sanitation and health education have been promoted. More artesian wells and sanitary facilities have been provided. More hospitals have increased available hospital beds. More charity clinics, puericulture centers, public health nursing establishments, and public health laboratories have been activated.

Preventive and sanitary measures against infectious and quarantinable diseases have avoided epidemics from indigenous sources and from abroad through international traffic and trade. The production of more vaccines and sera has been notably increased. Our BCG laboratory is rated the best and the largest in this region. We are producing vaccines for Formosa and Indo-China, besides filling our own requirements.

EDUCATION

Education is another fundamental of national progress from the standpoint of society and of production efficiency. No legislative body of the Philippines, since the days of the First Assembly, has ever been remiss in generosity for this function of public service. It is our established obsession that no child in the Philippines should be bereft of instruction. I am happy to say that in the past year as well as in the previous two years this Republic saw to it that the so-called school crisis has not recurred.

Last October, upon being informed that thousands of children would not be accommodated, I authorized after consultation with the Council of State the release of P1,630,000 to cover the employment of additional teachers. We have now an elementary school population of four million. In the ratio of school enrollment to total population, we rank next to the United States, the highest of any country in the world.

Through administrative adjustments we have strengthened the holding power of the schools and have brought about a much lower rate of withdrawal. The two-session program has been partially restored. Increases in enrollment have also been noted in the secondary schools, in normal and technical schools, and on the collegiate level.

Community school programs bringing teachers and pupils closer to their community are being instituted. Working with other agencies, the schools are assisting in improving community life along health, social, cultural, and economic lines.

Curricular offerings are being adjusted to inculcate work, consciousness and to provide work experience along the lines indicated by the dominant occupational activities and needs of the community. One objective is the revival of characteristics local cottage industries. You have facilitated this extra-curricular work by your approval of financial support of pre-service vocational, teacher preparation, especially in agriculture, trade, industries, and business.

As an incentive to further vocational training, we have converted the Muñoz Agricultural School into a college, in line with our policy established in the conversion of the Philippine Normal School into a college and various provincial trade and agricultural schools into national regional institutions.

Private schools continue to supplement government efforts in education. But the rapid growth of the private school system poses the problem of effective supervision for the maintenance of scholarship standards at high level.

PUBLIC WORKS TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

The rehabilitation of the major road and bridge projects undertaken jointly by our Government and the Government of the United States has been continued and pushed through with vigor during the year.

Ninety percent of the war-damaged water supply systems have been restored to operation. Construction of new waterworks projects, market buildings, bridges, municipal presidencias, and other public improvements financed from revolving loan funds or from loans extended by the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation, is continuing.

The investigation and survey of irrigation projects have been accelerated. Today eight new projects to water 78,500 hectares are awaiting construction, we completed the construction of 12 systems this past year, placing an additional 26,400 hectares under irrigation. Four projects furnishing water to another 15,100 hectares are under construction. When the Ambuklao outflow is harnessed, it will irrigate 48,000 hectares from Mt. Province to Central Luzon. The construction of flood control works in the Agno and the Pampanga river basins is proceeding apace.

We finished construction during the year of five administration, 138 school, four hospital, nine public health, and seven radio station war-damaged buildings, financed partly from U.S. war damage funds, and 47 administration, 212 school, 110 market, 51 general office, 22 hospital, 46 public health, and 90 other miscellaneous buildings exclusively by our government. But the typhoons in the Visayas again wrought havoc, destroying even buildings completed last year, especially school houses.

Twenty national and five municipal ports and 29 lighthouses have been rehabilitated and placed in service. Dredging of the Port of Manila, including the esteros, and the Pasig River is now 40 percent completed. Dredging of the Ports of Iloilo and Pulupandan is nearing completion. Five seawall projects have been constructed and repaired. The Dewey Boulevard has been extended. and filling is expected to be completed by May of this year.

Twelve additional post offices were opened. Regular airmail service to Israel and certain places in Palestine was resumed on May 5, 1951. Effective October 1, 1951, the twice-a-week airmail service to the United States was increased to six-times-a-week service. On January 1, 1951, the indemnity system of registration in 65 post offices located in chartered cities and provincial capitals was resumed.

Thirteen radio, seven telegraph, and 14 telephone stations and offices were established. Various telegraph and radio stations in strategic locations are open 24 hours to handle peace and order campaign messages. During the eruption of Mt. Hibok-Hibok, personnel of the Mambajao radio station stuck to their posts night and day. It was only when working in the vicinity was no longer possible that the station was moved to Mahinog where they kept the same vigil.

As a corollary of our aggressive program of increased production, we should adopt a more systematic and expanded transportation policy. Nothing can be considered produced until placed where needed for utilization. Progressive society is dependent upon transportation. It is time that, to derive maximum use of our meager resources, we established planned and coordinated programming of public expenditures intended for the provision of transportation facilities. Our government is committed to the maintenance of highways, bridges, port works, harbors, airfields, air and sea navigational aids. We should begin to explore the problems, possibilities, and potentials of a railway system in Mindanao, and provide for the extension of the existing system to Northern Luzon, especially in the Cagayan Valley.

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS

I am happy to report to you that in specific, routine materials, our government has established most satisfactory relations with other governments and peoples, which will enhance not only our relations with them, but our economic well-being by fruitful and mutually beneficial contacts.

We have been able to secure to our people a pledge of unqualified assistance in maintaining our country's security and its integrity, by the one great power which is in a position to offer and fulfill such guarantees—the United States of America.

Our relations with America remain what they have always been: relations of intimate and understanding alliance. Not just because America needs a base in the Far East, or because the Philippines needs the American market, but because fundamentally there is a bond of mutual ideal and aspiration between the Filipino and the American peoples that transcends the material factors of security and trade.

This ideal has motivated our relations with other free nations. Nor has it militated against our relations, with our neighbors and our brothers in race in this region of the world. Rather, it has enhanced them. For, as our neighbors have gained their well-deserved independence and sovereignty, it is to the example of basic Philippine-American relations that they turn when they consider their departure from the colonial status.

The routinary aspects of our foreign affairs are well known to you. I shall, therefore, limit myself today in recommending to your serious consideration two important treaty proposals which will be placed before you.

One is the Philippine-American Mutual Defense Treaty. I feel there is no need of special advocacy of this treaty.

The other is the Japanese peace treaty, signed by us in San Francisco in September of last year.

I fully appreciate the reasons for the reluctance which many of you will entertain in considering this document. At this time, all I can say is that our signing of this document in San Francisco has not been done thoughtlessly, or on pressure, but on a sober appraisal of what is best for this Republic in the state in which the world finds itself today.

CONTINUED VIGILANCE

Gentlemen of the Congress: We can perhaps take pardonable pride in the substantial achievement that we have made in economic, financial and social stability, and in political security. However, in spite of the fact that the climate will probably continue to be favorable for further progress in these fields, I am compelled to say that we cannot relax in our efforts. It is still necessary for us to continue exercising the greatest discretion and vigilance.

There are external factors affecting our economic, social, and political stability over which we have little or no control at all. Let us not add to the problems that they will pose by allowing internal factors, over which we have control, to get out of hand.

Vigilance against threats to our internal and external security must be continued. Inflation must not be permitted resurgence. Our ability to keep it in check depends largely upon our determination to continue observing and strengthening the sound fiscal and monetary policies and practices we have promulgated these last three years.

No amount of outside assistance can place our economic development program on a continuing and self-generating basis. It is only our own resources that can serve as the prime mover of our development process.

Within our limits we must sustain our determined effort to push through without delay every project designed to achieve a more balanced economy for our country.

ECA aid is beginning to flow. When it does come in substantial amounts, we should be able to speed up our work.

We should take steps to bring about a review of the Trade Agreement with the United States, to suit changing exigencies consistent with a diversified and balanced economy.

Finally, the increasing vigilance against, and prosecution of, every form of corruption this administration has been waging these past years should suffer no abatement. The record of dismissals, prosecutions, and convictions the past five years must warn every public servant that public service is the highest form of stewardship requiring utmost integrity and strictest discipline. I have wanted, while holding the Presidency, to inspire every man in the public service with pride in the organization to which he belongs, and every citizen with equal pride in his government. And may I say in addition that every public servant, whether in the national, provincial, city or municipal, or even the barrio, should remember that he is in the government to help the people and not to utilize his position to his personal benefit. (Applause)

OUR CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY

The world in which we live is a troubled, uncertain world. At no period in history have the masses of the world been better informed; yet at no period has there been greater groping, more searching, for a way to peace and to well-being.

In such a world it is with pride, yet with the humility which is our duty to Divine Providence that we look on our own nation, and find in it the hope that is born of faith and nurtured in achievement.

When we consider that many other nations of the world are reeling under impact of the world crisis, our country's position of over-all security is a matter of some gratification. But security-economic, internal and external and the resultant political stability which we have achieved, are a continuing responsibility. No nation can long exist if content merely to maintain a state of security for the current generation, and oblivious of the challenge of its generations to come.

We cannot be complacent. We should bend every effort to make our country stronger, to insure as far as we are able the security of our children.

Nothing is permanent in human institutions except the struggle to maintain and improve them. I ask that you bear in mind this unending struggle along the road on which our people are marching towards their destiny. That destiny, under the guidance of Him who gave His people will and reason, may be shaped by us. But into the labor of shaping it must go not only the goodwill and the calm reason, but the unity of all the people, without which many may fall behind, many may be destroyed, and none may reach the shining goal. Thank you.

NEW ATMOSPHERE FROM NATIONAL UNITY

I therefore appeal to you again for national unity—unity that is not a temporary adjustment of differences, or a mere agreement to vote together on this or that issue.

It is something much deeper. It has its roots and its being in the spirit that moves a man to look to his neighbor as one whose well-being, whose future, is linked with his own. It is the deep-rooted sense that if my neighbor, my fellow-citizen, my brother Filipino comes to harm, I too am harmed; I too will sustain injury. My own children cannot grow and flourish to the nation's honor, if his children are denied the opportunity to grow and flourish.

This, gentlemen of the Congress, is what I understand by national unity. Not the expedient unity of the polls, but that unity which brings to us the recognition of common problems, common tasks, common honor, and the need for common struggle. It is unity to face and foil the dangers which continually arise to harass us as a people.

Whatever our political creeds, we must close ranks and lead our people to a new horizon, leaving behind us the doldrums of inaction, mutual suspicion, intrigues, and recrimination. Let us rise to the challenge of this critical hour and create for our country a new atmosphere, an atmosphere of faith, of courage, of cheerfulness, of determination, and thus inspire our people to greater efforts in our struggle for continued existence. Instead of passively crossing our arms in helplessness and frustration, let us as citizens of a country with such a heritage of fortitude and courage, arise as one to fight together to give our people a life of substance, of strength, of contentment. This is the call that we must heed. To do so is to show the patriotism, the new heroism that this epoch demands.

ANNEX TO THE MESSAGE

1. Special appropriation measures for immediate relief in typhoon disasters, and provision for more adequate relief in other calamities.
2. Revision, for purpose of clarification, of the Rice Tenancy Law.
3. Establishment of a Rural Credit System to provide credit facilities to small farmers and tenants.
4. Amendment to the law restricting the sale or lease of public lands to the landless or those who do not own more than 100 hectares, and providing cancellation of sales or leases to those who do not actually cultivate the land.
5. Extension of vocational training, including the creation of other colleges of the Munoz type, and institutes of research on scientific methods of production of our staple commodities.

6. Further study of the minimum wage law to make it easier of enforcement and to make it more adaptable to local conditions, and corresponding revision of the Workmen's Compensation Law to make it conform to present exigencies.

7. More systematic construction of roads, bridges, and other means of transit, including railways, in regions of production and where industrial needs demand better facilities of communication.

8. More coordinated and effective investigations in administrative cases.

Congratulatory Message of President Quirino to Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez

**Congratulatory Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez**

[Released from the yacht *Apo*, April 30, 1952]

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ELECTION AS PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE. I CANNOT BUT SEE IN YOUR CHOICE THE FRUITION OF OUR PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING THAT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT YOUR PARTY AND MINE WILL APPROACH OUR COMMON PROBLEMS IN A BIPARTISAN SPIRIT. WITH YOUR LEADERSHIP OUR COUNTRY AND PEOPLE CANNOT EXPECT LESS. FOR MY PART AND THAT OF MY PARTY I TENDER MY SHARE IN THE RESPONSIBILITY.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). The President's congratulatory message, from the yacht *Apo*, to Senate President Eulogio Rodriguez, April 30, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(4), 1296.

Veto message of President Quirino on House Bill No. 727, entitled “An Act repealing all laws granting emergency powers to the President of the Philippines”

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT’S VETO MESSAGE OF HOUSE BILL NO. 727, ENTITLED “AN ACT REPEALING ALL LAWS GRANTING EMERGENCY POWERS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES”

Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

I have the honor to return herewith without my signature House Bill No. 727, entitled “AN ACT REPEALING ALL LAWS GRANTING EMERGENCY POWERS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES.”

I fully realize that the present emergency powers sought to be repealed by this bill were granted by the Legislature over 10 years ago, and that definite steps are being taken to end formally the state of war that necessitated the delegation of said powers to the President.

But it must be fully realized that, as an aftermath of that war and while the peace treaty formally terminating it is still pending consideration by the Senate, world conditions have become so complicated, so troubled and grave, and to be sure, worse than when World War II broke out, that it would be the better part of wisdom not to terminate those powers until or unless new authority to act in an impending emergency is granted by the Congress, or the Congress has provided directly for such an emergency.

In Korea as well as in our midst war is actually being fought between two conflicting ideologies, and our own soldiers are not only fighting but are dying in defense of democracy and freedom and for the preservation of our Republic. Shall we have to stress the emergency at home by recounting the unfortunate and recurring incidents in many municipalities where numberless innocent civilians, young and old, women and children, hospital nurses and patients, and even babies were killed, in the atrocious attacks of the Communists in their ceaseless efforts to subvert our Government?

A realistic appraisal of the gravity of the world situation, particularly the unsettled war in Korea and the authoritative reports to the effect that the Reds have built and are building up a massive military strength there and elsewhere, will readily convince all right-thinking people that there exists an imminent potential threat that the war might spread to such an extent as to make even our country a veritable battlefield. Already we are directly involved in that war. It is precisely because of the immediacy and gravity of our stake in the present Korean war that I am convinced we should be adequately provided with all the means—the presidential emergency powers or direct legislation—with which to meet any eventuality promptly and effectively with a view to protecting our people’s safety and security. The tendency of war procedure in our age does not guarantee that there will always be time to act adequately in case of actual invasion or declaration of war. I would not want to be a party to a course of action, such as that contemplated in the enactment of House Bill No. 727, which would place our national security in great jeopardy and peril.

I know full well the spirit which initially inspired the presentation of this bill, especially the reasons which prompted its dramatic approval by the House of Representatives, one of which is the unfounded and malicious fear that I might use the emergency powers for political purposes or otherwise capriciously abuse the exercise of the prerogatives provided thereunder, which are admittedly broad and almost unlimited. Two elections have taken place, in one of which I was personally involved, since I assumed office as President of the Republic, but I stand unchallenged that I ever used or abused the exercise of these powers at any time and under any circumstance for political advantage or ulterior purpose.

In your last regular session I recommended the approval of a bill granting specific and limited emergency powers and the civil defense and mobilization bill. I hereby reiterate that recommendation to obviate the necessity of exercising the present emergency powers. Pending the enactment of these measures or any better legislation, I cannot acquiesce in any act, as the conversion of Bill No. 727 into law, which would render the nation helpless and insecure, when the exigencies of the present critical and serious situation demand vigilance, alertness, and dispatch

in preparing our people for an imminent danger and catastrophe, for after all, the security of our people and the defense of the nation are the primary responsibility of the Chief Executive.

Respectfully,

ELPIDIO QUIRINO
President of the Philippines

Elpidio Quirino, Fifth State of the Nation Address, January 26, 1953

**Message
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the Joint Session of Congress
On the State of the Nation**

[Session Hall, Legislative Building, Manila, at 5:00 p.m., Monday on January 26, 1953]

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Congress:

I wish to express my gratitude for your generosity and for the concurrent resolution passed by both Houses, inviting me to address this last session of the Second Congress this afternoon. It is not probable that the Executive and the Members of Congress would no longer be on speaking terms simply because certain divergent views have divided us in the recent past.

This Congress came into being at the start of the present administration. We have since faced in common the sharp challenge of extremely difficult problems, putting to severe test not only the vision and quality of contemporary statesmanship but the genius, resourcefulness, and patriotism of our people.

It is gratifying to report in honest retrospect that our Government has buckled down manfully to speed the restoration and improvement of our internal and external security, our finances, our essential public services, and our badly damaged economy.

Owing to the marked improvement in the state of law and order our people have been able to concentrate their attention on the development of their farms, industrial activities, and other productive ventures.

Our external security has been greatly enhanced by a mutual defense treaty with the United States and by the accelerated implementation of our military assistance pact with her, as well as by the clarification and strengthening of our common defense efforts of long standing.

Our finances have been bolstered. Our National Government revenue jumped from P316,302,246.09 in 1949 to P611,460,943.82 in 1952, with the purchasing power of our peso maintained and its value recognized as one of the most stable in the world.

Our national economy has been so improved that the national income has increased from P4 billion in 1946 to over P7 billion in 1952.

We have raised the salary standard, stabilized the status, and liberalized the privileges of the rank and file of the personnel of the National Government, especially the teachers, the nurses, the enlisted men in the Army, and the low-salaried employees, providing adequate pension and retirement systems for them.

Our essential public services have been progressively improved and expanded, spreading throughout the country the benefits of health, education, and social welfare for our people to enjoy. Our death rate has been reduced; our birth rate, increased. The hardy perennial problems of inadequate school space and inadequate rice supply have become things of the past. And what is more, prices have gone down, living standards have been raised, and the lot of the common man, especially the laborer, has been greatly improved.

Our foreign relations have grown and so developed that one of the sources of our strength is in the sympathy and high regard of our friends across the seas.

All these have placed us in a firmer and sounder position, increased our international credit, and enhanced our name and prestige abroad.

I shall endeavor to make a more detailed but cursory review of how we have attained these accomplishments.

INTERNAL SECURITY

The task of advancing our internal security has been closely tied up with the problem of solving the threat of dissident terrorism and violence and of pacifying age-long social discontent. Therefore, we have sought the armed dissident elements in the open field, broken up their potential for organized disorder, and given them opportunity to return to peace and production. It has been a painful, costly, and tedious process, taxing our conscience in the sacrifice, in many cases, of life and property, in order to secure tranquility in our land and preserve our liberties and democratic institutions. Obviously we could not achieve these objectives merely at the point of the gun. We adopted a bold and ambitious program of social amelioration, mobilizing all our resources in an effort to provide a life of substance and contentment to the less fortunate, and cushioning the harsh effects of force with the reward of a home and a farm not only to the dissidents who were vanquished or who voluntarily surrendered and who promised to return to the ways of peace, but also to the so-called landless and homeless among our population. And our watchword has since been "land for the landless, home for the homeless."

As a result, the Huks, who form the armed forces of the local Communists, are now driven to the mountain fastnesses and isolated hideouts hardly able to gather the remnants of their politburo which has been broken since more than a year ago. Discouraged and disillusioned, their followers are now daily surrendering, many of them starting a new life in settlements prepared for them, in the EDCOR under the Army, and in the mass settlement projects under the LASEDECO.

LAND DISTRIBUTION

We have invigorated the LASEDECO. Until December last, it had already distributed to landless settlers 11,728 farm lots of from 8 to 12 hectares each, covering a total area of 120,000 hectares, besides allocating 11,308 home lots. These settlers are now farming their own land in Cotabato, Bukidnon, Isabela, and Palawan. They have hospitals, dispensaries, and tractor pools. They produce annually approximately 2.5 million cavans of palay, in addition to secondary crops like corn, mungo, and peanuts. There are now in operation, on the other hand, the EDCOR farming communities provided with modern facilities in Kapatagan, Lanao, and Buldong, Cotabato, for deserving dissidents and their families, many of whom now own their farm and home.

These settlers come from areas where tenancy has long existed. To bring the benefits of land distribution and settlement closer to troubled areas and to meet the reluctance of tenants to move far away from their old homes, I have reserved for the purpose 25,475 hectares in Rizal, 3,763.60 hectares in Nueva Ecija and Tarlac, 20,000 hectares in Isabela, in addition to over 30,000 hectares at Malig, already distributed and settled.

During the last year, 11 subdivision projects have been completed by private contractors. Five survey parties of the Bureau of Lands have undertaken subdivision surveys of public lands. Two hundred forty-nine thousand hectares have been surveyed and distributed to 16,000 settler families. To protect small farmers from land grabbers or speculators, I have issued an executive order reserving for occupation in lots not in excess of 10 hectares each all public lands within six kilometers from all highways, being or to be constructed in Mindanao and other provinces under the PHILCUSA-MSA highway development program.

In Mindanao alone this program covers a network of highways connecting most of the important provinces of the region and traversing rich agricultural lands. The total combined length of these highways is approximately 560 kilometers. This will make available for occupation over 650,000 hectares of land under the provisions of said executive order.

These public land distribution and settlement programs supplement the landed estate purchase program. The Government has purchased since 1947 for resale to tenants 25 landed estates with a total area of 44,000 hectares

costing over P18 million. Of this amount P14 million still remains unpaid. We had to borrow the purchase money from government banks. Continued acquisition of other landed estates had to be temporarily suspended because further borrowing from government banks would seriously endanger their financial position.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION AND SLUM CLEARANCE

We have accelerated the construction of homes for the low-salaried employees and the laborers. In Quezon City the Peoples' Homesite and Housing Corporation is now operating 2,116 low-cost units. We have even provided a big-sized Labor Hospital for this sector.

We have also attracted private entities in the construction of low-cost houses for the lower middle class. Already the Philippine-American Insurance Company has constructed 50 of this type of houses in the City of Iloilo, another 50 in the City of Baguio, and is now commencing the construction of 600 new units in Quezon City. A plan is afoot to construct similar houses in Tacloban and Legaspi and other centers of population.

Our program of slum clearance is being implemented with the construction of low-cost houses for squatter and low-income families, one in Pandacan, Manila, and another in Bago-Bantay, Quezon City. The former will house 480 families and the latter will have facilities for 800 families.

With the activation of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement in conjunction with the activities of the Social Welfare Administration and the barangay and *purok* organizations in the barrios, a new impetus is now reawakening social improvement in the rural areas throughout the country.

LABOR

Underlying almost every major governmental activity is the desire to improve the worker's lot, better his working condition, improve his earning capacity, create for him widening opportunities for continued employment, and raise his living standard.

At no other comparable period has the workingman achieved greater gains for himself and his co-workers than during the past two or three years. These include: (1) raising his wage standard; (2) promotion of his safety against industrial injury and disease; (3) protection of employees sustaining injury or meeting death in line of duty; (4) improvement of working conditions of women and children; (5) expansion of national employment programs leading towards greater and more stabilized employment; (6) protection of prospective workers from illicit activities of employment agencies; (7) protection of workers against irresponsible union leadership; and (8) raising labor standards in general.

A vigorous and determined campaign to enforce the Minimum Wage Law in both urban and rural areas has been pursued to insure for the workers and full benefits of the law.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health has remained at high level despite fires, typhoons, and repeated eruptions like those of Mt. Hibok-Hibok in Camiguin Island, Mindanao. Our health authorities and facilities have proven equal to the heavy exigencies imposed by such calamities.

Better sanitation has been achieved in diverse and effective ways. Stricter supervision over public eating places, markets, and slaughter houses has been enforced. Schools, industrial plants, and commercial houses have been subjected to systematic medical inspection. Immunization of the population against epidemic diseases has advanced where it is now willingly sought by everyone, young and old, rich and poor, healthy and infirm alike. We have spread the benefits of artesian well and sanitary facilities to more sectors, and have established an increasing number of hospitals, puericulture centers, charity clinics, and dispensaries

EDUCATION

The recurring school crisis in past administrations has been met since three years ago. Last year we took the last step in this direction. With the diversion of P2,647,000 from the contingent funds of the Bureau of Public Schools, after consultation with the Council of State, we opened 3,000 new semestral classes in November last, benefiting 150,000 more children. In June this year, 225,000 more children of school age will be accommodating.

We have maintained our world position as the country with the second highest ratio of school enrollment to total population. We are surpassed in this respect only by the United States.

We now have a goodly number of agricultural and vocational schools. Enrollment in these schools has multiplied and soon an increasing number of youths will be leaving their doors properly equipped with vocational skills so essential in our economic development program.

The important role of private schools in the education of our youth deserves mention here. There are now throughout the archipelago 1,770 private educational institutions from the lower grades to university level, with over three-quarters of a million students. Were the government to shoulder their operation and maintenance, P60 million would still fall short of the money so required, excluding the cost of their buildings and equipment.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

We have exerted every effort this past year to maintain and add to our system of highways and bridges and of other means of communications. Nearly 29,000 kilometers of roads and over 9,000 bridges are now being maintained and kept open to motor vehicle traffic. Two weeks ago, I opened the new Pinacanauan and Naguilian bridges in Cagayan and Isabela. These bridges together with the Malalam Bridge near Iligan, Isabela, will provide the Cagayan Valley with a continuous road. The Cotabato and Pagaluñgan bridges in Cotabato, which I likewise opened three months ago, will provide through transportation across the Cotabato Valley linking this region with Davao province. Eight, other bridges and 19 port works projects have been completed. Several large edifices, among them the P450,000 Sorsogon High School building and the P400,000 Cebu Capitol annex, are about to be completed. Being started are the P700,000 Quezon Memorial Mausoleum as part of the Quezon Foundation, and the Roxas Memorial Theater whose plans are being readied.

Nearly 500 wire-telegraph offices, 180 radio-telegraph stations, and over 1,160 postal offices now keep our population centers in close contact.

Related to our agricultural development program is our increasing endeavor to construct new irrigation systems. The Burgos Irrigation Project in Zambales, completed last August, waters approximately 6,000 hectares. Five other irrigation projects in the provinces of Quezon, Davao, Leyte, Ilocos Norte, and Nueva Ecija should be completed and harnessed this year. The construction of the P7,500,000 Jalaur irrigation project in Iloilo to serve no less than 15,000 hectares is starting next month. We now have 27 national irrigation systems servicing over 117,000 hectares of rice lands in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Bataan, Bulacan, Laguna, Quezon, Camarines Sur, Albay, Leyte, Iloilo, Antique, and Zambales.

Sixteen river control projects were completed last year and 35 more are now in varying stages of construction.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

The level of agricultural production for domestic consumption and for export continues to rise. This year we will be producing enough rice for our own needs. In other food items, such as fish and poultry, production is expanding. Sugar output for the 1952-1953 crop years will not only fill the Philippine quota in the United States for the first time since liberation and our own domestic requirements, but also leave a surplus for other markets.

The total combined production during 1949 of certain selected commodities, like palay, corn, sugar, copra, root crops, etc., amounted to 5,576,000 metric tons. In 1952 this had increased to 7,503,000 metric tons or an increase of 35 per cent in three years. The total area of land devoted to the production of all crops reached 5,326,000 hectares in 1952, which exceeds by 380,000 hectares the 1949 area. At the average of two workers to put one hectare of land into production, we can see that there were approximately three-quarters of a million more farm laborers who found occupation during 1952, compared to those working in 1949.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Most significant has been the rise of new industries and a corresponding increase in industrial production. In two years and a half, we have established such important new industries as jute, iron and steel, textiles, chemicals, glass, nail, incandescent bulbs, toilet soap, rubber tires, plywood, bond and wrapping paper, asbestos, plastics, musical instruments, kettles, tableware, pencils, chalk, etc. Up to November 15 last, 165 new tax-exempt factories had begun manufacturing articles formerly imported.

This recent industrial development has been made possible by new capital investments, both local and foreign. In the manufacturing industries alone, the amount of private capital invested since 1948 at the time of incorporation has reached P117,942,813.88.

On the whole, investments in corporate and partnership ventures in 1952 were on the same level with those of the preceding year. Filipino capitalists and businessmen were greatly encouraged to adopt modern corporate methods increasingly. We have taken appropriate measures to safeguard public interest and to protect investors by the adoption of methods designed to curb, through rigid examination, the issuance of "watered" stocks by registrant corporations.

From February 1 to April 30 this year, we shall have the first Philippines International Fair. Besides the display of Philippine products together with those of the participating nations to promote world trade, the Fair will also show the agricultural, commercial, and cultural progress of the country as well as the recent advance that we have made in our industrial development.

DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN TRADE

Greater efforts have been exerted on the whole towards increased Filipino participation in domestic trade. The capital structure of the corporations and partnerships registered during the first eleven months of the year shows that our nationals lead in both fields, especially with regard to investment of small merchants.

Less than two years hence, the tariff levies on our exports to the United States will be in operation. By that time we shall be manufacturing articles and goods needing export markets and facing stiff competition there. We must therefore, attend to the problem of foreign trade promotion. We must locate markets for our products. This means that our home production should be placed on a competitive basis abroad not only in price but in quality. But more than anything else, our home market should be developed in order to promote our foreign trade.

Philippine foreign trade during the first eleven months of 1952 has aggregated P1,411.8 million, of which P773.4 million represents imports and P638.4 million represents exports. On the basis of these figures, the total trade for the whole year is expected to reach well over P1.5 billion, which will be less than the 1951 total of P1,790,516,663.

There is need for readjusting our foreign trade. We must redirect our productive potential towards agricultural development for self-sufficiency in the prime needs of our people, and towards industrial development based on the utilization of local raw materials. But unless our own countrymen ready and willing to invest in processing, are given adequate protection, they cannot survive in competition with foreign manufacturers. To rise above

subsistence level, and to achieve a standard of living to which we are entitled, we cannot afford to remain permanent suppliers of raw materials for industrial powers and permanent importers of processed consumer goods. It is time to

readjust our trade and tariff policies to suit present conditions and to make them more effective instruments of our economic development.

I propose the creation of a Tariff Commission to study the present tariff rates carefully and in detail. This we should do while we present our side to the United States in our desire to readjust our trade relations with her. The Problem is not easy. It will take some time before we can expect concrete recommendations for the required changes. Immediate action is essential not only to hasten our industrial development, but to provide for the necessary machinery or authority to act on the urgent changes or modifications in the tariff schedules to protect our interest in the meantime.

THE GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS

Much of the implementation of our economic development plans is entrusted to the corporations owned or controlled by the Government. Taken together, the operations of these corporations, except those of the Central Bank, the Philippine National Bank, and the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation, netted during the fiscal year 1952 a profit of P4,000,000 from a total income of P208,000,000. The three financial institutions made total profits of P24,933,202.43.

The Manila Gas Corporation whose majority stock has been acquired by the Government has been rehabilitated and has been operating since last month.

This year other important basic industries will begin operations. The two principal projects of the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation will be completed—the Mariveles shipyards in March, and the Iligan steel mills in September.

The Cebu Portland Cement Company with its present annual output of six million bags, together with the output of two privately-owned plants, does not fully meet local demand. A new plant of three million-bag capacity is therefore, under construction in Bacnotan, La Union.

The National Power Corporation's Maria Cristina hydroelectric and fertilizer plant projects will begin operations this May. The Ambuklao project is 15 per cent completed and the transmission lines to Manila are under installation. This project is estimated to cost P101,000,000, of which P61,000,000 has been furnished by our Government and \$20,000,000 by loan from the United States Export and Import Bank. When completed it will supply power to the areas around the Mountain Province, to Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Pampanga, Bulacan, Bataan, and Manila. Its reservoir will also supply irrigation water to approximately reservoir will also supply irrigation water to approximately 40,000 hectares of rice land in Northern and Central Luzon.

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL CREDIT

The three financial institutions of the Government, the Central Bank, the Philippine National Bank, and the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation have continued the admirable partnership they have virtually established in meeting the credit requirements of Philippine agriculture and industry. Today, there is hardly any commercial, agricultural, or industrial activity of national economic importance which has not been assisted by one or all of these corporations,—the Central Bank indirectly, of course, through the support it has given to the loan activities of the two other institutions.

New arrangements have been made to provide facilities for the financing of industrial development and to meet particularly the credit needs of small merchants and farmers. First, a special trust fund of P10,000,000 has been set up for the special account of the counterpart fund to guarantee a large share of the risk to be assumed by banking institutions granting industrial loans. Second, a plan has also been adopted whereby loans may be granted to Philippine financial institutions by the Central Bank on behalf of the Export and Import Bank from a fund of \$5,000,000 that the latter institution has made available as loan for financing small productive enterprises in the Philippines. Third, rural banks are fast being established in various localities under the supervision of the Central Bank and with governmental capital assistance up to 50 per cent of their own paid-up capital out of an allocation of

P2,000,000 from the counterpart fund. Lastly, the Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Financing Administration has been established to deal exclusively and directly with one of the most serious difficulties from which the small farmer has from time immemorial suffered; namely, the procurement and marketing credit. For this purpose it has received a contribution of P2,000,000 from the counterpart fund.

THE MSA-PHILCUSA PROGRAM

These last two projects of loan assistance to the small farmers in line with the order programs of mutual economic assistance have been facilitated under MSA-PHILCUSA auspices. But they are but a few of the several projects to which the MSA and PHILCUSA have addressed themselves.

It is meet to note here the history of the Philippine-American Mutual Assistance Program. Upon my representations to President Truman in January, 1950, the Bell Mission was sent to the Philippines in July of the same year. Shortly after the Bell Mission Report in October of that year, Mr. William Foster came to the Philippines as the personal representative of President Truman to conclude with our Government a preliminary agreement known as the Quirino-Foster Agreement of November 14, 1950, providing the basis on which the United States would grant aid to the Philippines in the amount of \$250,000,000. On December 15, 1950, the PHILCUSA submitted to the Council of State an interim aid program, and an allocation of \$15 million was granted shortly as advance aid to the Philippines. The bilateral agreement, which is the formal treaty governing the Mutual Assistance Program, was signed April 27, 1951. The United States Congress then allocated to the Philippines another \$32 million for expenditure within the 1951-1952 fiscal year. Last year it granted us another allocation of \$30 million for the 1952-1953 fiscal year. In addition, the Export-Import Bank has recently granted to the National Power Corporation a loan of \$20 million for the Ambuklao Hydroelectric project. The total aid thus far allocated to the Philippines since the start of the Mutual Assistance Program now amounts to \$77 million in grants and \$20 million in loan. Under the bilateral agreement we have to deposit P2 for each dollar of aid granted to us, to form the counterpart fund. Up to this date, our Congress has appropriated a total of P75 million for this purpose. This amount has been bolstered by counterpart funds derived from the sale of commodities, to the extent of P24,715,535 up to December 31, 1951, so that to date the total amount of the available counterpart fund is P99,715,535. A total of P44,691,267 of this counterpart fund has now been authorized to be spent on all projects under implementation.

Despite the initial difficulties and obstacles inherent in a program of the size and scope of these joint entities, they have chalked up already a number of noteworthy achievements. Over 23,700 tons of fertilizers have been distributed to farmers throughout the country, estimated to increase the yield of rice, corn, fruits, and vegetables to more than P19,900,000. The culture of pure rice and corn seeds has been done on 178 hectares of land, 41 hectares of which have already been harvested. Distribution of the seeds harvested to farmers will begin soon and ought to bolster immensely the country's drive for self-sufficiency in prime cereals.

PHILCUSA's assistance in the campaign against mosaic has cleared 50,287.03 hectares of abaca land of infected plants. With the rehabilitation of the U.P. College of Agriculture and the establishment of the Central Experimental Station in Los Baños, we now have facilities for agricultural instruction, research, and extension comparable to the best in other countries. Other MSA-PHILCUSA projects basically of a service nature just coming to the fore will improve our facilities for agricultural production, agricultural research, agricultural extension, soil survey and conservation, vocational and technical education, health programs, road development and rehabilitation, and the improvement of manpower efficiency and of production techniques and processes in industry and trade.

THE P200,000,000 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

Let us not forget that, even before the inception of the United States aid program, we had already started our own program of economic development using for that purpose the P200 million which was loaned by the Central Bank to the Government under the provisions of Section 137 of Republic Act No. 265 as Economic Development Fund. This fund was allocated to the various government projects upon the recommendation of the National Economic Council, which body likewise approved those projects that were to be undertaken, either by the government directly or through its corporations. The fund was thus distributed and eventually released as follows: (1) P74,677,090.27 to the National Power Corporation for the construction of the Lumot River Diversion Project, the Maria Cristina

Hydroelectric and the Ambuklao Hydroelectric Projects; (2) P21,428,688.93 to the National Development Company for the construction of three ocean-going vessels, for advances made to the nail plant, the pulp and paper mills, the Malangas Coal Mines, and the Engineer Island shops, for subscription to shares of stock of the Philippine Electric Manufacturing Co. and the Philippine Air Lines, Inc., and for the construction of the Ilocos Textile Mills in Narvacan, Ilocos Sur; (3) P891,050 to the Cebu Portland Cement Co., to finish the construction of the pulp and paper mills; (4) P20,500,000 to the National Shipyards and Steel Corporation for the construction of the Mariveles National Shipyard and the Iligan Steel Mill project; (5) P15,000,000 to the Land Settlement and Development Corporation for its rice and corn project; (6) P1,984,400 to the Manila Railroad Company for the purchase of ten new locomotives and spare parts from Japan; (7) P10,000,000 to the Bureau of Public Works for the construction of irrigation projects; (8) P40,160,000 to the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation to be used for financing agricultural and industrial projects; (9) P3,500,000 to the Department of Agricultural and Natural Resources for its fertilizer, irrigation pumps, and abaca mosaic disease projects, and (10) P1,843,170.80 to the National Abaca and Other Fibers Corporation for its Davao Abaca project. As of December 31, 1951, there still remained unallotted the sum of P10,015,600, which is reserved for other productive and income-producing projects.

GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Let us now look at our national finances as they bear upon our economy.

Two years ago, we elected for ourselves a goal in the field of fiscal policy which many countries for more favored than us in resources, technical equipment, and manpower have considered unattainable in this age. I am proud to report that in the fiscal year which ended last June 30, we achieved our postwar objective of a balanced budget and were able to match expenditures with revenues.

The latest available figures from the General Auditing Office placed the total income of the National Government for the last fiscal year at P611,460,943.82, as against expenditures of P539,239,957.39. Considering the numerous spheres of government endeavor in which expansion was demanded, the excess of P72,220,986.43 of income over expenditures assumes a happier hue.

We have also progressed in the liquidation of the advances from the Special Funds. In the fiscal year 1952, repayments to the Special Funds aggregated P127,339,715.32, so that as of June 30 last year, only P25 million remained to be refunded. We are addressing ourselves to the eventual repayment of this balance and expect to do this before the close of the ensuing fiscal period.

Local government finances have also noticeably improved. Provincial and municipal governments realized an income of P74,192,000 in the fiscal year 1952. This figure compares favorably with their 1951 performance of P60,830,000. Collections of chartered cities reached P73,712,000, or an increase of P12,623,000 over the 1951 record of P61,089,000. The assessed value of taxable real property in the provinces, municipalities, and cities increased by over P176 million in a year's time.

While the overall picture appears to be brighter than heretofore, individually, the local governments have still to exert greater efforts towards financial autonomy. Many cannot yet sustain ordinary and essential services or meet legal requirements, like that of the Minimum Wage Law, without allotments from national funds. These fiscal difficulties can be solved. Local boards and councils should early consider measures designed to tap new sources of local income, or to increase prevailing rates of local taxes and fees.

PUBLIC DEBT

The past fiscal year saw a substantial decrease in the public debt by P132,972,858.52. From a figure of P927,327,684.44, at which it stood on June 30, 1951, the public debt has gone down to P794,354,825.92 as of June 30, 1952.

We have complied with the amortization requirements of the loans secured from the U.S. Treasury and from the U.S. Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Treasury notes and treasury bills are being retired on their due dates, and

we have not found it necessary to increase the flotation of such issues. In accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 800 which amended portions of the Backpay Law, partial redemption of backpay certificates is proceeding apace. About P10 million has already been disbursed in fulfillment of our commitment to loyal and deserving employees of the Government.

EXTERNAL FINANCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL RESERVE

Largely as a result of our success in maintaining domestic stability in the economy, the problem of maintaining external stability has been greatly minimized. The continuing decline in the demand for, and prices of, our export products, coupled with the many destructive typhoons which in recent months laid waste sizable areas planted to domestic and export crops, resulted in an unprecedented drop of \$63 million in export receipts during the first 11 months of 1952. Such a substantial decline could have been fatal to the national economy. International reserves could have been depleted to a point where it could have been difficult to import not only vital raw materials and supplies for our industries but even many of the essentials of life. Fortunately, a reduction in imports by \$72 million below that of the 1951 level and a moderate rise in United States expenditures in this country served to offset the big drop in export receipts. It was thus that international reserves have been maintained at a level that is adequate, barring unforeseen world developments and provided that we continue to observe sound fiscal and monetary policies.

On the whole, 1952 has been a year marked by great gains in economic strength, both internally and externally. Inflation, still a major problem in many countries today, and which only a few years back appeared to be impossible of solution in our country, has been checked. The retail prices and the cost of living index of wage-earners during 1952 declined substantially from the level of 1951. Consequently, the purchasing power of the peso today, not only of the middle class but also of the low-income groups, has shown definite improvement. We must conserve these gains.

STABILIZATION OF GOVERNMENT FINANCES

But more than we realize, we stand on the verge of possible retrogression.

I would like now to call special attention to the unfavorable trend which government revenues have taken since the middle part of 1952. On account of the continuing low demand for, and sustained drop of the prices of, our export products which resulted in a decline of about \$63 million in export receipts during the first 11 months of 1952, total government revenue from taxation for the current fiscal year which was originally predicted at around P526 million, is now estimated to reach P474,000,000 only.

This unforeseen development will be further aggravated by the expiration this year of some of the tax laws which were purposely enacted to balance government revenues and expenditures. In addition, the foreign exchange tax will be sliced from 17 per cent to 12 1/2 per cent after June 30, this year.

These factors may compel the Government to resort again to deficit spending which, needless to say, is a situation that we should make every effort to avoid. The inflationary pressures which such a program would generate could easily give rise to a rapid deterioration of our international reserves (because of the augmented pressure they would exert for increase imports) or to a spiraling of prices and cost of living, or to both unsalutary conditions at the same time.

Therefore, I earnestly ask you to consider favorably the extension of the tax laws which will expire this year and to retain the foreign exchange tax at its present rate of 17 per cent. This rate is much lower than the 25 per cent originally recommended by the Bell Mission which saw in the measure an alternative to the import duties that our government is unable to impose on account of the restrictive provisions of the Trade Agreement supplement to the Bell Trade Act.

I cannot too strongly stress the grave aftermath likely to result from any failure to recognize the imperative need to retain these tax laws in full force. Adequate taxation is essential, both to assure a sound fiscal position and to

maintain economic stability. It was principally because of the enactment of these tax measures in your first and second sessions, complemented by adequate economic, monetary, and credit policies, that we have made considerable headway in the maintenance of economic stability in our country. We should not lose now by default the victories won these past two years in the economic and fiscal fields.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

In the last twelve months, the Philippines concluded treaties of friendship with Cuba and with the Dominican Republic. It also signed 14 other agreements, three of which were on civil aviation for the extension of our air routes to various countries, and eight with United Nations Agencies providing for various forms of technical assistance to the Philippines.

In view of our expanding relations with other countries, new Foreign Service posts were established; namely, a legation in New Delhi and a consulate in Guam, thereby increasing the number of our existing diplomatic missions to 13 and of our offices to 12.

In order to place our Foreign Service strictly on the merit system and thereby insure its efficiency and effectiveness, I signed Republic Act No. 708, otherwise known as the Foreign Service Act of the Philippines. The placing of diplomatic and consular personnel on a career basis with strict eligibility requirements is expected to bring about still higher performance standards among our Foreign Service personnel.

REPARATIONS AND THE JAPANESE PEACE TREATY

Let me take up with you once more our position in connection with the Japanese Peace Treaty. The Senate did not act on the peace treaty during its last session. Technically, therefore, we are still at war with that country. Our failure to normalize and stabilize our relations with Japan has stood in the way of the consolidation and strengthening of the defense of our region against the common danger that threatens the countries that comprise it.

From the economic point of view, the uncertainty of our relations with the former enemy has not served our interest. We must stabilize these relations to take advantage among other things of our favorable balance of trade with that country, and determine how we can strengthen our national economy by taking advantage of proffers of Japanese industrial technical assistance.

To reach an early agreement on the reparations question, which is the only factor responsible for the non-ratification of the peace treaty by the Senate, the Japanese Government sent two special missions to the Philippines. I am confident that as a result of our negotiations with them and our direct dealings with the Japanese Government through our mission in Tokyo, we have made progress towards an early settlement of the reparations problem.

EXTERNAL DEFENSE

In compliance with our commitment to the United Nations' effort in Korea, we have maintained fighting forces in that area. As in other battlefields, the Filipino soldier has again won additional honors and prestige on that front. He is receiving citations for valiant and heroic action.

Uncertainties continue to hang over the international situation. We shall strive to make further provision for our national contribution towards the efforts of free nations to remain free. The improvement of our domestic situation will enable this Government to devote more time and resources to the development of our defense against threats from without, either through infiltration or through direct attack.

In 1951 we entered into a Mutual Defense Treaty with the United States. In the latter part of last year a meeting was held in Manila between representatives of the United States and the Philippine governments to clarify and strengthen the roles that the United States and the Philippines would play in the defense of our territorial integrity, should any threat be poised against it, as well as in the regional security of this part of the world. This meeting also made it

possible for our Government to take up possible acceleration of United States military assistance to the Philippines in accordance with our military assistance pact.

World antagonisms notwithstanding, we are determined to contribute however modest to the maintenance of world peace and assist in the preservation of the liberties and rights of free men. From conviction we have cast our lot with the democracies.

Our Government has dedicated itself to the cultivation and fostering of amicable relations with the other peoples of the world, to active participation in the efforts of the United Nations to promote human welfare and maintain world security and peace. We have urged the formation of a system for the common development and defense of the countries of our region. The past year witnessed a perceptible and significant attitude of the responsible powers towards the development of this objective. It is my hope that, in the months to come, it may be possible for the various governments concerned to meet together and work out the basic principles of this project.

CONTINUING PROCESS AND VIGILANCE

I have given you a picture of the important developments during the last three years of our administration. With pardonable pride I can say that they can stand comparison with the record of progress of our nation in any period of our history.

In the face of apparently insurmountable difficulties, in an atmosphere of keen partisanship, aggravated by the confusion, insurgency, and fears fomented by a new world ideology ruthlessly seeking to destroy the very foundations of democratic institutions the world over, we have shown strength of character as a people.

We have been able to put our heads together on matters calling for the highest type of statesmanship. We have achieved that in due course may be characterized as heroic against a backdrop of long and painful vicissitudes. We have established during our time a government stable in its finances and political institutions, rich in promise of yet greater deeds.

But this is a continuing process. It should leave us no time and excuse for complacency. We should and can surpass our past accomplishments and cooperating with one another, solve many of our long standing ills in our time and generation.

Great opportunities are before us, never before presented in the different epochs of our history. With our record of accomplishment, I know we can achieve better things yet. We can continue balancing our budget, prevent the recurrence of any school or rice crisis, and increase the public revenues and the national income in great measure. We can produce more consumption and export goods and manufacture the products which we have heretofore been importing. We can steadily improve our standards of living; assure greater prosperity, satisfaction, and happiness to the masses of our people, individually and collectively. We can attain greater honors by more heroic action in foreign battlefields. We can even say that, in our time, we can write in letters of gold the name of the Republic of the Philippines for our children to cherish.

But all this would be set at naught will have no meaning, and our efforts will be in vain, if we do not employ care and vigilance in the preservation of what we hold dear in our heart and soul as a people. For, in our very midst there are influences not only undermining our stability as a nation but actually destroying the very principles upon which our nation has been founded—our freedom, our democratic institutions, and the way of life we have discovered to be the real source of our happiness.

These destructive influences are active. They always speak to blood baths and revolution. They are determined to overthrow the government and turning their back on the noble sacrifices of our heroes and martyrs, are bent on delivering us to a new power which will ultimately enslave us and our children.

We must stand united to fight them and those who fight for them, if we are to survive as a nation and deliver our precious heritage to the succeeding generations.

We must not be deluded by temporary or personal advantage into allowing these enemies of our freedom and happiness to avail themselves of the confused, precarious atmosphere where they expect to thrive at the cost of our future.

We must give no quarter to them in the open field, in the mountain fastnesses, in the courts, in the press, and even over the radio. Before they destroy us, let us face them and conquer them, face them fraternally if they come to reason and to the folds of the law, and face them as our worst enemy in time of national peril, if they don't.

LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS

Letter of the President Quirino accepting the resignation of the Secretary of National Defense

**Letter
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Accepting the resignation of the Secretary of National Defense**

[Delivered on August 31, 1950]

The President's letter accepting Secretary of National Defense Ruperto K. Kangleon's resignation is quoted in full as follows:

"My dear Secretary KANGLEON:

"In deference to your request, I hereby accept your resignation as Secretary of National Defense effective today. I regret that under the present circumstances I cannot continue availing myself of your services in the Cabinet, but I wish to entertain the hope that you will again answer the call of duty when the public interests so require.

"My association with you in the cabinet has been most pleasant and I am deeply appreciative of your loyalty and effective cooperation and support, both in the party as well as in the government.

"I wish you every success in your future undertaking.

"Sincerely,
"(Sgd.) ELPIDIO QUIRINO

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Letter of the President of the Philippines accepting the resignation of the Secretary of National Defense, August 31, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(8), 3626.

Letter of President Quirino to Senator Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr. in connection with the designation of the Senator as Vice President and Treasurer of the Peace Fund Campaign Commission, September 23, 1950

**Letter
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To Senator Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr. in connection with the designation of the Senator as Vice President and
Treasurer of the Peace Fund Campaign Commission**

[Sent on September 23, 1950]

MANILA, *September 23, 1950*

SIR:

I have your letter of September 22, 1950, calling my attention to the provisions of Article VI, section 16, of the Constitution, in connection with your designation as Vice-President and Treasurer of the Peace Fund Campaign Commission created under Executive Order No. 345, dated September 19, 1950. Said provisions read as follows:

“No Senator or Member of the House of Representatives may hold any other office or employment in the Government without forfeiting his seat * * *.”

The Peace Fund Campaign Commission is a civic organization composed of men and women I have called upon to assist without any form of compensation in an undertaking which requires the cooperation of all patriotic citizens. It was not my intention to create by Executive Order No. 345 a public office or employment, acceptance of which by a member of the Congress may result in the forfeiture of his seat in the House to which he belongs. The Secretary of Justice so advised me in the present form in which the Order has been issued.

Your acceptance, therefore, of the position of Vice-President and Treasurer of the Peace Fund Campaign Commission will not cause forfeiture of your seat in the Senate of the Congress of the Philippines. I have furnished the President of the Senate a copy of this letter for his information.

In this connection, I wish to inform you that as per our understanding in our last conference with the attendance of Congressman Zulueta, House Minority Floor Leader, all your suggestions regarding the collection and expenditure of the voluntary contributions to the Peace Fund Campaign Commission have been embodied in my instructions to the Commission, copy of which is hereto attached.

In renewing my appeal to you for cooperation, I rely on the spirit of patriotism which you have always manifested in our conferences and which, I am sure, has not lagged at this critical moment when our liberty and freedom as a nation is being threatened.

Respectfully,

ELPIDIO QUIRINO
President of the Philippines

The
Senate,
Manila

Honorable
Congress

Eulogio
of

Rodriguez,
the

Sr.
Philippines

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Letter of President Quirino to Senator Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr. in connection with the designation of the Senator as Vice President and Treasurer of the Peace Fund Campaign Commission. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(9), 4204-4205.

Letter of President Quirino to Associate Justice Ramon Ozaeta accepting the resignation of the latter from the Supreme Court, September 30, 1950

**Letter
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To Associate Justice Ramon Ozaeta accepting the resignation of the latter from the Supreme Court**

[Sent on September 30, 1950]

September 30, 1950

My dear Justice Ozaeta:

I have your letter dated September 26, 1950, tendering your resignation as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. In deference to your wishes, I am accepting your resignation effective on the date following the last day of your vacation leave which begins on October 16, 1950, unless your successor in office is sooner appointed and qualified in which case your resignation will be effective upon his appointment and qualification, without prejudice however to the commutation of your vacation leave, subject to the availability of funds.

On this occasion, I wish to express to you my appreciation of the valuable services you have been rendered to the Government, in the Executive Department as well as in the Judiciary.

Sincerely yours,

Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines

Hon. Ramon Ozaeta
Through the Honorable
The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
Manila

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Letter of President Quirino to Associate Justice Ramon Ozaeta accepting the resignation of the latter from the Supreme Court. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(9), 4206.

Letter of President Quirino to Secretary of Labor Primitivo Lovina

**Letter
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
To Secretary of Labor Primitivo Lovina accepting the latter's resignation from the Department of Labor**

[Sent in Manila, October 9, 1950]

"My dear Secretary Lovina:

"Your letter of October 4th, reiterating for the last time your desire to be relieved as Secretary of Labor, gives me no alternative but to accept your resignation.

"You have done great honor to the position you are leaving. You have been most loyal, constructive and enterprising, setting for the Department a distinguished record of practical progressiveness consistent with enlightened developments in the field of labor welfare. Your conciliatory attitude towards capital and labor has greatly contributed to the solution of many labor disputes during your incumbency. The Government owes you a tribute of lasting appreciation for your services.

"Let me wish you every success in your future undertakings. I trust I can call on you again as the occasion arises.

"Sincerely yours,

"ELPIDIO QUIRINO
"President of the Philippines"

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Letter of President Quirino to Secretary of Labor Primitivo Lovina. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(10), 4805.

PRESS STATEMENTS

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Transcript of the Statement: President Elpidio Quirino after administering the oath of office to members of the Surplus Property Commission Investigating Committee

Transcript of Statement of President Elpidio Quirino:

After administering the oath of office to members of the Surplus Property Commission Investigating Committee

[Released in Manila, April 7, 1948]

GENTLEMEN:

In asking you to give me more of your time in straightening out so many things for the Administration, principally in appointing you a Committee to look into the actual conditions of the Surplus Property Commission, please, understand that my concern in general is: first, to give me a complete over-all picture of the surplus property and account everything pertaining to the procedure in the disposal of surplus property; second, in order that I may be able not only to judge for myself the real and actual conditions but also to be able to draw a line from the date I assumed office and from which I assumed responsibility. At the same time, I want to know where President Roxas left off and where I am going to begin.

We need to be well informed of the conditions obtaining in the Surplus Property Commission, as well as in the other agencies of the Government which have supervision and accountability of big amounts of property and money. Perhaps other entities which have not been looked into heretofore will be entrusted to you.

This duty has been assigned to you in the Surplus Property Commission because of your experience in looking into the workings of such agencies, as the E'CA. I am convinced that you have done good work in looking into the conditions of other entities. It is well that we know immediately the actual conditions there to disabuse the mind of our people that such big entities as the Surplus Property Commission and others that have property and money responsibility and accountability are being just left to themselves, precisely at a time when we want to strengthen the confidence of the people in the government. It is but right and just that I be prepared to inform the public of what is going on. I want to know the actual conditions of the Surplus Property Commission.

As I stated, other entities having similar or greater responsibility or money accountability will follow. For the time being, the Surplus Property Commission has been the center of attacks here and abroad. It is my immediate concern to look into the conditions of that entity. You are given until July 31 to discharge your duty in connection with the examination of the Surplus Property Commission. I hope that you will be able to achieve our objective at even an earlier date than July 31.

JUSTICE HERRILLENDO:

We are conscious of the importance of the work that has been delegated to us by Your Excellency. Whenever one of us cannot fulfill his duty because of unforeseen circumstances, I believe that that one should come to tell the President.

PRESIDENT QUIRINO:

I am taking this step at my own initiative. As I said I want to be able to draw a line where President Roxas left off in order that I may know what I am responsible for and in order that I can judge for myself what measures should be adopted to strengthen the faith of the people in the government.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Transcript of the statement of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, after administering the oath of office to members of the Surplus Property Commission Investigating Committee, in his office on April 7, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(5), 1583-1584.

Joint Statement of President Quirino and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek

Joint statement of the President Elpidio Quirino and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, issued at Baguio on July 11, 1949:

During the past two days, we had a full exchange of views on matters concerning Sino-Filipino cooperation and the relations among all the Far Eastern countries. We both feel happy to state that throughout the meeting, the atmosphere was permeated with a spirit of frankness and harmony.

In our discussions, we agreed that the relations between China and the Philippines should be further strengthened and that concrete and practical measures should immediately be taken by our respective Governments for the promotion of a closer economic and cultural cooperation.

We also had a full discussion on the imperative of coordinated full development of the Far Eastern countries in order to insure their stability and security. In view of the lack of close collaboration among them in the past and considering the gravity of the Communist menace which confronts their freedom and independence today, we deem it necessary that these countries should at once organize themselves into a union for the purpose of achieving solidarity and mutual assistance to contain and counteract that common threat.

A preliminary conference of authorized representatives of those countries desiring to participate in the formation of this union should be convened at the earliest possible moment to devise concrete measures for its organization.

It is our hope that other countries in Asia and the Pacific will eventually respond to the highest aims of the proposed union.

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek further stated: "Although I have come to the Philippines upon the invitation of President Quirino to confer with him in my private capacity, I shall, as leader of the Kuomintang undertake to advise and request the Chinese Government to give its full support and to take steps to implement the agreements as announced in the above statement."

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Joint statement of the President Elpidio Quirino and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, issued at Baguio on July 11, 1949. (1949). *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(7), 2799.

Statement: President Quirino to the Members of the Surplus Property Investigation Committee, July 31, 1948

Statement of President Elpidio Quirino:

To the members of the Surplus Property Investigation Committee

[Released on July 31, 1948]

LET US KNOW ACTUAL CONDITIONS

President Elpidio Quirino made the following statement after administering the oath of office to members of the Surplus Property Investigation Committee, in his office on May 7, 1948, giving the Committee until July 31, 1948 to achieve its objective:

GENTLEMEN:

IN ASKING you to give me more of your time in straightening out so many things for the administration, principally in appointing you as a Committee to look into the actual conditions of the Surplus Property Commission, please understand that my concern in general is; first, to give me a complete over-all picture of the Surplus Property and account everything pertaining to the procedure in the disposal of surplus property; second, in order that I may be able not only to judge for myself the real and actual conditions but also to be able to draw a line from the date I assumed office and from which I assumed responsibility. At the same time, I want to know where President Roxas left off and where I am going to begin.

We need to be well informed of the conditions obtaining in the Surplus Property Commission, as well as in the other agencies of the government which have supervision and accountability of big amounts of property and money.

Perhaps other entities which have not been looked into heretofore will be entrusted to you.

This duty has been assigned to you in the Surplus Property Commission because of your experience in looking into the workings of such agencies, as the ECA. I am convinced that you have done good work in looking into the conditions of other entities. It is well that we know immediately the actual conditions there to disabuse the mind of our people that such big entities as the Surplus Property Commission and others that have property and money responsibility and accountability are being just left to themselves, precisely at a time when we want to strengthen the confidence of the people in the government. It is but right and just that I be prepared to inform the public of what is going on. I want to know the actual conditions of the Surplus Property Commission.

As I stated, other entities having similar or greater responsibility or money accountability will follow. For the time being, the Surplus Property Commission has been the center of attacks here and abroad. It is my immediate concern to look into the conditions of that entity. You are given until July 31 to discharge your duty in connection with the examination of the Surplus Property Commission. I hope that you will be able to achieve our objective at even an earlier date than July 31.

Justice HORRILLENDO:

We are conscious of the importance of the work that has been delegated to us by Your Excellency. Whenever one of us cannot fulfill his duty because of unforeseen circumstances I believe that that one should come to tell the President.

President QUIRINO:

I am taking this step at my own initiative. As I said I want to be able to draw a line where President Roxas left off in order that I may know what I am responsible for and in order that I can judge for myself what measures should be adopted to strengthen the faith of the people in the government.

Source: **The New Philippine Ideology**

Statement: President Quirino on his scheduled trip to Washington Statement of President Elpidio Quirino:
On his scheduled trip to Washington

[Released on July 28, 1949]

I have accepted with pleasure an invitation from the President of the United States to visit Washington at an early date.

The possibility of such a visit has been discussed in messages exchanged between us during the past several months and I am happy that we have been able to arrange a mutually satisfactory time.

I know of President Truman's deep interest in the welfare of the Filipino people and I am looking forward to the opportunity of discussing with him a wide range of subjects of concern to our two countries. There is, however, no single plan or policy on which I shall seek to obtain agreement during the course of my visit. It is my hope that the visit may serve to strengthen the friendship long felt between the United States and the Philippines.

I plan to leave Manila on time to arrive in Washington on the eighth.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). President Quirino's statement on his scheduled trip to Washington, July 28, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(7), 2804.

Statement: President Quirino on the tragic death of Mrs. Aurora Aragon Quezon

Statement of President Quirino:
On the tragic death of Mrs. Aurora Aragon Quezon

[Delivered over the radio, April 29, 1949]

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

We have just laid to rest three of the finest characters in our national history, Mrs. Quezon, her daughter Maria Aurora "Baby" Quezon and her son-in-law, Philip Buencamino III. The other victims of the lawless elements, Mayor Ponciano Bernardo of Quezon City, Col. Primitivo San Agustin, Lt. Col. Antonio San Agustin, 1st Lt. D. M. Arabejo, Lt. Diosdado Lasam, CpL Quirino Almarines, Pfc. Brigido Valdez, and Pedro Payumo, are also to be laid to rest soon.

The nation is filled with revulsion at the ruthlessness and heartlessness of the murderous attack upon them. Mrs. Quezon the outstanding Filipino woman of our time, the most gentle of women I have ever known, least expected that she would be a prey to barbarous assault. Evidently the attackers had previous knowledge that Mrs. Quezon's party had left early yesterday morning for Baler. It is my understanding that other cars preceding her motorcade had been allowed to go through unmolested on the same road that she passed. There is every indication that the lawless elements intended to rob her and her party and to sacrifice their lives to accomplish that end.

In the presence of my Cabinet this morning, I requested General Jalandoni, the only survivor in the Quezon death car, to give me a first hand account of the tragedy which befell Mrs. Quezon and her other companions.

According to General Jalandoni, he was satisfied with the cooperation of the Constabulary as to the strength of the escort force, but that the usual security measures could not be followed out of respect to Mrs. Quezon's own instructions not to allow uniformed men to precede her car. She gave these orders, according to General Jalandoni, firstly, because she believed that the presence of uniformed men might provoke attack from dissident elements, and, secondly, that she was fully confident that nobody would think of doing her any bodily harm.

I knew that the route to Baler is treacherous and mountainous, and suitable to the type of cowardly attacks such as occurred yesterday. For this reason, I had offered Mrs. Quezon the use of my plane. But it became our national misfortune that she decided on taking the highway through one of the few remaining areas where the lawless and the criminal still hide from the law.

When I first heard of the tragedy, I expressed the belief—a belief which was apparently shared by Mrs. Quezon herself—that nobody would think of doing any harm to the woman who was so good and kind. My first reaction was that probably the assailants did not know that Mrs. Quezon was in the party of their intended victims.

But after I heard the account of the tragedy from General Jalandoni, I was convinced that the perpetrators of this crime were men unfit to live in Christian society. According to General Jalandoni, when Mrs. Quezon's car was stopped with Col. San Agustin who was behind the wheel already dead, Mayor Bernardo was able to shout at the assailants that it was Mrs. Quezon who was in the car, but these heartless attackers instantly killed him, grabbed Mrs. Quezon's bracelet and proceeded to mow down their other helpless victims and divested them of their jewels and other valuables.

That these lawless elements have seen fit to pick for their victims the finest type of Filipino womanhood, the purest of our mothers, only accentuated the savagery and soullessness of the elements who perpetrated this crime. It is ironic indeed that these base characters should pick for their victims the very people who had the welfare of the masses at heart. For both Mrs. Quezon and her daughter, fondly called Baby, have been devoting their entire time to charitable work, the former as National Chairman of the Philippine National Red Cross, and the latter as President of

the Young Ladies Association for Charity, after they have been orphaned by the greatest champion of the masses—President Manuel Quezon.

As you know, one of my first official acts when I assumed the stewardship of the nation was an effort to solve the problem of peace and order in Central Luzon. On the belief that like good and true Filipinos, the dissidents would listen to reason, I went out of my way, even against the recommendations of some of my advisers, to try to win these elements over to the side of the law-and to persuade them to return to peaceful life where they could participate in the country's rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts. I granted them amnesty in order to facilitate their return to peaceful life. On top of that, through the President's Action Committee on Social Amelioration, the government gave these dissident elements everything that it could humanly extend to them as relief in the way of food, clothing, medicine, seedlings, job opportunities, credit facilities, and other means to enable them to start anew and live in comparative peace and quiet instead of starving and roaming like wild animals away from civilization. We gave them schools, lands to cultivate and additional agents of the law for their security. I have lately authorized the immediate construction of irrigation systems and the establishment of branches of the National Bank in strategic regions of production as further incentive to their productive activities.

What happened after the amnesty is a matter of record. The dissidents failing to understand the benevolent attitude of the government, did not live up to their terms of the amnesty and their leaders had been unmasked as agents and propagandists of dangerous alien ideas. Coercing and terrorizing ignorant peasants into following them, taking advantage of the opportunity to hide their identity during the daytime by assimilating themselves with the civilian population, and victimizing innocent citizens through treacherous raids and ambushes, these lawless elements have proved with their most recent depredation that they will stop at nothing to sow panic, chaos, and confusion and to undermine the duly constituted government and authority of the people.

My countrymen, we cannot allow these enemies of human society to continue with their depredations. Unfortunately, what they have just done, is being seized upon as political capital in some quarters, little knowing that by nurturing the seeds of dissension and confusion they are actually giving aid and comfort to the dissident elements in their propaganda and in their forcible efforts to undermine this government.

I have therefore given orders to use everything in the power of the government to eradicate lawlessness. I appeal to all civilized elements in our country to cooperate in this all-out effort by guarding against playing into the hands of our common enemy for selfish political ends.

With the cooperation of loyal and law-abiding citizens, we will eliminate the last vestige of lawlessness and savagery in our land. I earnestly request those who have knowledge of the presence of lawless elements in any nook and corner of the land to report the matter to the nearest authority. I appeal to the civic spirit of all. Your fear of reprisal is more dangerous than the threat to the whole community. Concealment is cowardice, treason.

We must never again allow those who shock the human conscience by such attacks on society as were perpetrated against the very mother of our people to repeat their dastardly deed.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Statement of President Quirino on the tragic death of Ms. Aurora Aragon Quezon, delivered over the radio, 8:45 p.m., April 29, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(4), 1698-1700.

Statement: President Quirino upon the arrival of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek Statement of President Elpidio Quirino:

Upon the arrival of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek

[Released in Baguio, July 10, 1949]

I am most happy to receive Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. I had long wanted to meet him personally as an admirer of his strong will and effective leadership of Chinese affairs during his time. I am glad that I am now going to have an opportunity to exchange views with him regarding the overall picture of the situation in the Orient. I am hopeful that during his stay with us in the Philippines the relations between the Filipino people and the Chinese people will henceforth be stronger and that our common efforts to make our two peoples live a life of contentment will find a common ground of understanding for the development of our two countries in particular and Asia in general. I am confident that his visit will be fruitful of results towards this end and that the common understanding among the peoples of Asia will be greatly enhanced.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). President Quirino's Statement upon the arrival of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in Baguio, Sunday noon, July 10, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(7), 2796.

Statement: President Quirino upon learning of the death of Justice Frank Murphy

Statement of President Elpidio Quirino:
Upon learning of the death of Justice Frank Murphy

[Released on July 20, 1949]

The people of the Philippines mourn the death of Justice Frank Murphy. It was Justice Murphy who, as the last Philippine Governor-General and subsequently as first United States High Commissioner, stressed here the primacy of human rights over property rights and helped give the common man full appreciation of the potentialities of his high destiny. Justice Murphy was a great liberal. He was one of the most attached and sincere friends of the Filipino people. His friendship never lagged nor wavered whatever his position and wherever he was.

The world has lost a champion of the dignity of the human person and the Philippines one of her progressive builders and benefactors.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). Statement of President Quirino upon learning of the death of Justice Frank Murphy, July 20, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(7), 2801-2802.

Statement: President Quirino on his scheduled trip to Washington

Statement of President Elpidio Quirino:
On his scheduled trip to Washington

[Released on July 28, 1949]

I have accepted with pleasure an invitation from the President of the United States to visit Washington at an early date.

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I know of President Truman's deep interest in the welfare of the Filipino people and I am looking forward to the opportunity of discussing with him a wide range of subjects of concern to our two countries. There is, however, no single plan or policy on which I shall seek to obtain agreement during the course of my visit. It is my hope that the visit may serve to strengthen the friendship long felt between the United States and the Philippines.

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Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). President Quirino's statement on his scheduled trip to Washington, July 28, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(7), 2804.

Statement of President Quirino on his Letter of Instruction to Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, August 3, 1949

Press statement of President Quirino on his Letter of Instruction to Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, August 3, 1949:

For the information of those who expressed misgivings regarding the nature and scope of the proposed Pacific Union, I am releasing today the text of my Letter of Instruction to Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo whom I have asked to take charge of the task remaining to be done towards the establishment of Pacific Union.

This I am doing in the public interest, believing that the formulation and execution of a definitive foreign policy on this vital problem—a non-partisan foreign policy—should be exposed to the widest scrutiny as an earnest of our conviction that we are on the right road and that we could expect the loyal support of a well-informed and intelligent public opinion.

Broad powers are being conferred upon Ambassador Romulo under the terms of my instructions. On the basis of his record of faithful service, I have confidence in his prudence and ability. I am certain that he will persevere in his labors until success is achieved.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Press Statement: President Quirino upon his arrival in Honolulu

Press Statement of President Elpidio Quirino:
On his arrival in Honolulu

[Released in Honolulu, Hawaii, August 7, 1949]

I regret indeed that I cannot tarry longer in Hawaii. I recall the wonderful reception and hospitality that the people and government of these beautiful islands extended to me during my last call here, two years ago. I was then the Vice-President and concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs, on a mission of good will. Today I am hurrying to Washington on a mission of good will but charged with far greater responsibilities.

I am feeling again the warm and generous heart of the people of Hawaii, the great American people, and my own countrymen in this territory.

It is my hope that on my return from Washington I shall be able to be with you longer.

It is the Hawaiian spirit of "Aloha" which the whole world needs today. It is the Filipino spirit in the word "Mabuhay" that should cheer up the suffering world. Both spirits should advance cooperation and harmony irrespective of racial differences. Aloha and Mabuhay to all of you!

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). Press statement of the President upon his arrival in Honolulu, August 7, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(8), 3254.

Statement: President Quirino on the Sixth Anniversary of the death of President Manuel L. Quezon

Statement of President Elpidio Quirino:
On the Sixth Anniversary of the death of President Manuel L. Quezon

[Released on August 1, 1950]

The Philippines was under enemy occupation when President Quezon died six years ago today. Yet at that time there was not a doubt among his people that the country would soon gain its freedom. He passed away as Moses did, after a lifetime of devoted leadership of his people, catching a glimpse of their Promised Land but not actually entering it. In the emergency that his country, in freedom, is facing today, we can demonstrate no greater loyalty to the memory of his work than mustering all the courage and wisdom and material resources we can to preserve and develop the fruit of that work for the benefit of our posterity.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Statement of President Elpidio Quirino on the Sixth Anniversary of the death of President Manuel L. Quezon, August 1, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(8), 3619.

Statement: President Quirino on the suspension of the privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus, October 20, 1950

Statement of President Elpidio Quirino:
On the suspension of the privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus

[Delivered on October 20, 1950]

After careful and conscientious consideration, I have decided to suspend the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* by issuing Proclamation No. 210.

Heretofore, this government has been adopting a benevolent attitude towards the lawless elements of this country, granting them amnesty on two occasions, in an effort to win them to the folds of the law. Strenuous efforts have been exerted in other directions in order to implement this policy of attraction, devoting a great portion of the finances of the government to social amelioration, relief and other assistance to the so-called forgotten elements of the country, besides giving greater participation or share in the crop to tenants, buying big landed estates to be distributed among the landless, and authorizing the immediate occupation of vacant public agricultural lands, for the purpose of accelerating production and encouraging the ownership of such public lands by the landless.

Apparently, the lawless elements have not appreciated the benevolent attitude and program of this government and, instead, they have come to believe in the insidious doctrines of Communism that are opposed to our way of life. There is now no doubt that they have constituted their various groups into an organized effort to subvert the Government, employing every means of propaganda and violent acts in their campaign of sedition, insurrection and rebellion. The numerous cases of brutal acts committed in different municipalities during the recent months, as well as the round-up of no less than 100 persons known to be leaders of this rebellious movement, have convinced me that there is an actual state of rebellion in many localities and that there is danger that this movement may extend throughout the country.

This government can no longer tolerate the continuation of such a state of affairs, endangering not only the peace and security of the people but the very security of the state itself.

I have therefore no other alternative but to issue Proclamation No. 210 suspending the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* for persons detained or who may be hereafter detained for the crimes of sedition, insurrection or rebellion, and all other crimes committed by them in furtherance or on the occasion thereof, or incident thereto, or in connection therewith.

This measure is calculated to facilitate the prosecution and final disposition of the increasing number of cases arising from the seditious, rebellious or otherwise subversive acts of the lawless elements to the end that normalcy may be restored and the democratic way of life may be preserved for us and our children.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Statement: President Quirino on the suspension of the privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(10), 4808-4809.

Statement: President Quirino on the death of Henry L. Stimson, October 21, 1950

Statement of President Elpidio Quirino:
On the death of Henry L. Stimson

[Delivered on October 21, 1950]

The Filipino people share the loss of the American people in the death of Henry L. Stimson.

He was well known and liked here during his term as governor general.

His administration was characterized by constructive measures, especially designed to stabilize government finances and foster public service.

As Secretary of State and even after his retirement he continued to be helpful to us in securing our freedom.

The Filipino people will long remember his name with gratitude.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Statement: President Quirino on the death of Henry L. Stimson. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(10), 4809-4810.

Statement: President Quirino on the report of the Bell Economic Survey Commission, October 28, 1950

Statement of President Elpidio Quirino:
On the report of the Bell Economic Survey Commission

[Released on October 28, 1950]

I am highly gratified to have received today from President Truman the report of the Bell Economic Survey Commission and to find that it is a highly constructive statement of conditions prevailing in the Philippines as found by the Commission during its visit and stay in our country. I am sincerely grateful to President Truman as well as to Mr. Bell and members of his staff for the earnest and thorough effort they are exerting to assist our government in its many grave problems.

I requested the survey precisely so that we may be able to adequately understand the problems confronting us and find appropriate means of solving them. Whatever criticisms the report contains, I know they were made in the best faith and with a desire to be helpful to us.

I share in President Truman's suggestion that the full text of the report be made public because I want our people to learn the expert view of the difficult conditions confronting us as well as the remedies by which they may be improved. I shall seek consultation with the members of the Congress and other leaders in the government for a most careful consideration of the recommendations before discussing them with the representatives of the United States government.

I hope that an agreement will be reached in due time to assure our people security and continued progress.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Statement: President Quirino on the report of the Bell Economic Survey Commission. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(10), 4810.

Joint Statement of President Quirino and ECA Administrator William C. Foster on the Memorandum of Agreement signed by them, November 14, 1950

Joint Statement of President Quirino and ECA Administrator William C. Foster:

On the Memorandum of Agreement signed by them

[Released on November 14, 1950]

President Quirino and the Honorable William C. Foster, as personal representative of President Truman, concluded their conversations today in Baguio by signing, with mutual gratification, an agreement which will constitute an instrument of immense usefulness for both the Philippines and the United States. The agreement is based largely on the general recommendation of the Bell report. It indicates the plans of the Philippine Government to take immediate steps to improve its economy and the intention of the President of the United States to request substantial assistance for the Philippines as quickly as possible so as to enable the Filipino people to realize their aspirations for an improved way of life. It provides for the usual Marshall Plan type of operations for the benefit of the Philippine and American peoples. The agreement may well herald the beginning of a new and even closer partnership between the two nations in working towards a better common future in a more stable and prosperous world.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Joint Statement of President Quirino and ECA Administrator William C. Foster on the Memorandum of Agreement signed by them. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(11), 5410.

Statement: President Quirino regarding his visit to Spain

**Statement of President Quirino:
Regarding his visit to Spain, shortly before boarding the *S.S. Constitution***

[Released on November 25, 1951]

“I leave for Spain in response to a gracious invitation by the government of that country. I consider such a visit opportune at this time in the interest of the foreign relations of my government and the good name of the Filipino people.

“Spain was our mother country for nearly four centuries. During that long period of time, she gave us of her many great cultural values and the blessings of her religion. These things we enjoy today, and it is not so easy to cast them aside. Spiritually we are linked to Spain and it is for us now to strengthen the link.

“I have come to the United States to witness the signing of a mutual defense pact between this country and mine. This pact settles the question of our security in our own area of the globe. Primarily, in a military way, my people should, from now on, have no fear of being attacked without the security of an adequate and effective defense.

“By virtue of the mutual defense pact, we have the United States definitely by our side, not only as a safeguard of the special ties of idealism that have bound us with the United States for nearly half a century, but precisely as the security that will give us that sense of mutual stability in a world harassed by distrust and suspicion.

“With our security within our immediate orbit assured as a result of our defense treaty with the United States, we want to preserve what remains of our ties with Europe the better to secure our place in the scheme of international harmony.

“Our foreign policy seeks the enhancement of our relations with other peoples of goodwill. It is in that spirit that I have accepted the invitation of the Spanish government. The Spanish people are deserving of our friendship in return for the abundantly demonstrated goodwill to us.”

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). Statement: President Quirino regarding his visit to Spain. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(9), 4560.

Statement of the President upon accepting the credentials of Ambassador Spruance, February 1953

Statement of the President upon accepting the credentials of Ambassador Spruance:

It has been a source of admiration and satisfaction to recall, the important role that many great men of the United States of America played in the last war in the Pacific in which our people contributed to the highest measure of our capacity to attain our common objective. I am happy to say, Mr. Ambassador, that you are among the few who have substantially participated in the shaping of that part of our history in a vital and decisive manner, enabling the people of this country to resume their course to freedom and peace and prosperity. It is for this reason that I find added pleasure in welcoming you today as the Ambassador of the United States of America to the Republic of the Philippines.

I share your concern for the preservation and perpetuation of the basic concepts and fundamental principles to which our two countries are steadfastly dedicated and which the free world is striving to uphold. Indeed, the course of events in this part of the world in the last two years has more than justified this attitude and has given us cause to accelerate and intensify the implementation of our mutual commitments towards the early achievement of our common end. I therefore consider indicative of a keen and positive appreciation of the portent of these events, the assignment to the high post which you now occupy, of a man of your vision, rich experience, and tried interest in the future of this country and the peoples of this area.

You may be assured, Mr. Ambassador, of the sincere cooperation of my Government and myself in all matters concerning our common interests and objectives during your tour of duty in the Philippines, which I hope will be as happy as I expect it to be fruitful of reassuring results to our two countries and the peace of the Pacific.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Statement: President Quirino on Ambassador Myron M. Cowen

**Statement of President Elpidio Quirino:
on Ambassador Myron M. Cowen**

[Released on October 23, 1951]

Ambassador Myron M. Cowen has represented the United States in the Philippines in a creditable manner both to the United States and to our country. He was at all times an American ambassador true to the ideals of his country. He has served the interests of the United States by helping preserve the peace and security of this part of the world in an effective way, and his departure from the Philippines will be felt by all who believe in America's high-minded purposes in fostering friendship and good will between herself and the Asian nations.

He has been of great help to us in the Philippines in strengthening the friendly ties between our two peoples and it is gratifying to us that he will continue in a position in the State Department where the experience and background gained during his tour of duty here will be an asset to us as well as to his Government.

He knows our abiding interest in a Pacific Security Pact and we are confident he will be of great assistance in carrying it out.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Statement of President Elpidio Quirino on Ambassador Myron M. Cowen, October 23, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(10), 5068.

Statement: President Quirino on the joint PHILCUSA-MSA Conference

Extemporaneous Statement of President Elpidio Quirino:
Before the news reporters after the Joint PHILCUSA-MSA Conference

[Released at the Council of State room in Malacañan, January 7, 1953]

On the eve of my presenting to Congress a message on the state of the nation, I thought it convenient to review the activities of the agencies of the two governments—the United States and the Philippines—represented by the MSA and the PHILCUSA. This is in order to have a full grasp of what has been accomplished so far in accordance with the Quirino-Foster Agreement extending to the Philippines \$250 million worth of assistance in loans and grants, and to give the public also an opportunity to be acquainted with the results of our efforts to secure the help of the United States in our economic development and financial rehabilitation.

Incidentally, I had occasion to clear up matters with the representatives of both bodies regarding the undesirable atmosphere being created locally in connection with the publication of controversial issues which have occupied our people and even our political leaders. I want to disabuse the minds of our people regarding misconceptions of the role being played by the two bodies in the execution of our program which we have jointly adopted.

I want to make special reference to the so-called Hardie report, and the McMillan-Rivera report, because the reports in themselves, as far as figures, statistics, and local circumstances are concerned, are faultless. These documents were prepared as working tools for these two bodies. America is here in a helpful spirit. We invited America to come, first with the Bell Mission and later with the MSA, to come and help us grasp the difficulties, discover the details, make a complete survey of what is fundamentally wrong in this country, especially with respect to our financial and economic situation, in order that America can help solve them with proper aid.

These documents are working tools of the government and were prepared by long-standing experts whose views and opinions and technical qualifications cannot be assailed. So I want to utilize them as a remedy and should not be utilized for issues, political or partisan and otherwise, to defeat the highest purposes of the United States Government in extending us help in achieving the results that we expect with the assistance from the United States.

So, I purposely not only got together here the representatives of the MSA and the PHILCUSA, but also invited the Ambassador to be present in a family discussion of this problem in order to clarify the main objectives in the activities of both bodies—the MSA and the PHILCUSA—and thus, in a helpful spirit, cooperate in solving the problems that are confronting this country.

We have read in the press claims of the far reaching effects of failure on our part to comply with our duty to solve the problems of the Philippines with the assistance of the United States in order to encourage the United States to continue giving assistance. These reports belong to two governments but not for political or partisan consumption, which will becloud the real issue, especially as the pre-electoral period has set in.

More attention should be devoted to an analysis of the activities and accomplishments, and the far-reaching effects of the program of both bodies, rather than dig up centuries-long standing social or economic defects which we have been trying to solve not only during this recent past, but since the American occupation and even as early as the Spanish regime.

I think that more time should be devoted to an appreciation of what has been accomplished by both governments towards the realization of the economic development of the country envisioned in the Quirino-Foster agreement. So far we have received \$77,000,000 for expenditures and assistance, hoping that more speed, more acceleration will be given in sending more assistance from the \$250 million. I want the country to absorb as much as possible during my term because I want to round off the program of this administration this last year of my term.

I have no objection to the Hardie report. That is a factual analysis of the situation. My only point is this: all these data collected are data secured at my request, at the Philippine government's request, in order to serve as the basis in the solution or to remedy the defects in our social and economic system. But these data are not supposed to be utilized as bases for derogatory criticism of the government because of defects of long standing. We are trying to solve them.

There are conclusions in the report which express the individual view of an expert. The United States has not expressed that. As a matter of fact the reports were not submitted officially. Any expert is free to express his own opinion, to make his own conclusions, as long as these are working bases in the apparent solution of the problems. This is a free country. . . . This is not the criticism of the U. S. Government. The information is that it was not submitted officially to the President of the United States.

I am not going to take issue with any expert. As long as these experts utilize these as their own, I have nothing to do. This McMillan-Rivera report is useful. It contains data upon which to base an appraisal and the recommendations to be adopted in order to remedy the long-standing defects. There is nothing wrong there. Even this land tenure report, this Hardie report, contains facts and figures. It is a good working material.

There is only one thing: Disabuse the minds of people who must have thought we have abandoned the idea of purchasing landed estates and have exclusively adopted the policy of opening up for settlement available public agricultural lands. We did not abandon the idea. Up to now we have already purchased 44,000 hectares of landed estates worth \$18 million and, because of that, we are indebted in the amount of P14 million. We can not afford to continue purchasing landed estates in view of our present lack of funds, and that is why we supplemented this policy with opening up vast tracts of public lands for distribution to the landless. When we have the money, we shall resume purchasing landed estates.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). Extemporaneous statement of the President before the news reporters after the Joint PHILCUSA-MSA Conference at the Council Of state Room in Malacañan, January 7, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(1), 22-24.

Statement: President Quirino on the results of the national elections

Statement of President Quirino:
On the results of the national elections

[Released on November 10, 1953]

The reports steadily coming in definitely indicate the generally peaceful, orderly, and free character of today's national election. Except for minor disturbances and misunderstandings natural in a hard fought campaign and one isolated case of violence, which, however, did not directly arise from or interfere with actual election proceedings, the exercise of suffrage has followed time-honored democratic practices.

Our people have excellently displayed their calmness, and it is my confident hope that they will continue to exhibit their judicious use of the instrumentalities which freedom has placed in their hands to manage our own affairs and to articulate their choice and decisions by means of the ballot. Today's proceedings stand as an incontrovertible proof that democracy is secure in our country and an assurance that we firmly hold aloft its bright torch in our part of the world. This comes as a resounding rebuke to those who have systematically propagated false charges that the administration will subvert the popular will. It is a clear vindication of the stand I have taken during the campaign that we are a mature people worthy of our independence and sovereignty.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1953). Statement of President Quirino, November 10, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(11), 4812.

Statement: President Quirino on conceding victory to Ex-Secretary Ramon Magsaysay

Statement of President Quirino:
On conceding victory to Ex-Secretary Ramon Magsaysay

[Released on November 12, 1953]

In this year's elections evidently the people expected much in a change of administration. My most fervent prayer at this hour is that the change is for the better.

The people's verdict should be accepted for the sake of national unity. I have nothing but good wishes for the country and my successor.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). Statement of President Quirino conceding victory to Ex-Secretary Ramon Magsaysay, November 12, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(11), 4813.

HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS

Inaugural Remarks of President Quirino after the Demise of President Roxas, April 17, 1948

**Inaugural Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
After the Demise of Manuel A. Roxas**

[Delivered at Council of State Room, Executive Office Building, Malacañan Palace on April 17, 1948]

In memory of our great and illustrious friend who is now lying in state, let us pledge ourselves to establish better and closer understanding among us, and I beseech you to manifest more tolerance, goodwill, and love, which we need in this supreme moment of our history.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Funeral Oration of President Quirino at the necrological services for the late President Manuel Roxas, April 25, 1948

**Funeral Oration
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the necrological services for the late President Manuel Roxas**

[Delivered at the Session Hall of the House of Representatives, Lepanto, Manila, April 25, 1948]

Yesterday, the panorama of our history as a people revealed only two peaks, massive and tall, whose crowns pierce the skies. One of them, the figure of Jose Rizal, rears up solemn and majestic, symbolizing the father and founder of Filipino nationalism. The other the likeness of Manuel L. Quezon, rises to giddy heights, bold and austere, as befits the memory of the Father of his Country. Today, a third one, by light emblazoned and as solid as granite, takes its proper place besides these two peaks as we enshrine the memory of Manuel Roxas and pay our last homage to his mortal remains. Fate has destined this great leader to be known henceforth as the Father of the Republic of the Philippines. The first caught my youthful imagination and struck the tenderest chord of my love of country when, at the age of seven, I learned of his execution at Bagumbayan. With the second I was thoroughly acquainted as it was through his promptings and my attachment to him that I first entered public life. The third was a bosom friend with whom I grew up. Reared in the same atmosphere, I was not only fond of him, but as an admirer I watched his rapid and swift rise to great heights with unceasing wonder.

In our school days, although belonging to different classes, we often found ourselves together, many a time side by side and occasionally face to face. Thrown together in our school activities whether in debates, declamation or oratorical contests, or in fraternities and other extra-curricular organizations, always we found ourselves moving forward. How touching it is to recall those days on this occasion!

In our earlier manhood, we entered the public service again at the same time. He began in the executive branch as a provincial governor and I in the legislative branch as a representative. While he was Speaker, I was a Senator. Together we joined the campaign for independence here and abroad. We met in the Constitutional Convention, we held the same portfolio one after the other in the Cabinet.

We found ourselves together again in the Senate, he as president and I, as President Pro-Tempore, and lately, we were in the executive branch of this Republic, he, as President, and I, as Vice-President. We faced the same crises and problems. Although perhaps I suffered more, we went through the same vicissitudes in the darkest hour of our history. We read the same books; saw the same lights pursued the same objectives; and came upon the same oasis in our desert of years. I derive great pride in recalling my close association with our, departed leader principally because, as time passed, my admiration grew deeper, and I learned many of his qualities as a leader in school, in provincial government, in the Legislature, and in the high Councils of our government. All this gave me the opportunity to appreciate fully the merit of his far-visioned statesmanship that led him onward along the path I am to follow by constitutional mandate. Manuel Roxas was a truly great man. He has left us to join the caravan of immortals. He has become a part of eternity. In our hearts, as in our nation, he has left a painful void which no one will ever fill. As we perform the last rites over his mortal remains and bid him our last farewell, we pause to make a just appraisal of his accomplishments as the leader of the nation.

To his cares as chief magistrate he gave of himself without stint and without limit. In health and in illness, he labored and toiled that our people may be prosperous and happy, that our future may be tranquil and secure, that our nation may be enlightened and great. For reward, he did not care. Selfish considerations he spurned. Even a well-

earned rest he would not take. His constant obsession and passion was to serve his people. He bartered his whole life for the public service and nothing afforded him greater pleasure than to give his all for his country.

When barely two years ago he took his oath of office as President of the Republic, the cries of women in distress, the groans of men dragged from their homes by bandits and kidnappers, almost drowned his ringing and reassuring voice. Today the voice of fear has receded to the distant jungles and remote mountain fastnesses. Where once ruin and rubble assailed the eye and the atmosphere of insecurity and despair prevailed, homes have been built and reconstructed, confidence has been restored, and a glow of hope now brightens the faces of a reawakened and optimistic people. In the countrysides, farms are being tilled to yield the wherewithal of our people, and in the centers of population the commercial activities have reached a tempo indicative of an increasing prosperity. When almost all the rest of the world, also trying to recover from shock and war destruction, was still bleak and gloomy, he made this country a bright and happy spot.

The bare facts speak for themselves. Two years ago the public coffers were empty; today we face the bright prospect not only of a balanced budget but of having a probable surplus. Two years ago it took four and a half times more money than pre-war to live; today the value of money has increased to more than twice its purchasing power. Production of the basic crops has doubled and in some cases quadrupled. In spite of the decrease in the cost of living, wages have increased by about twenty per cent. The new tide of prosperity is filling our schools with children, almost doubling the enrollment during the last two years. Our foreign trade has expanded to over two billion pesos, far exceeding the pre-war record.

His solid achievements at home projected the fame of Manuel Roxas abroad, winning for his nation and people the esteem and respect of other nations. His contemporaries the world over jingled him out as one of the outstanding statesmen of his time. Old and powerful countries, unscathed by the war saw our nation in ruins rise under him, witnessed its rapid strides, watched the government grow in strength and prestige, and, in praise and admiration, finally extended their hands to seek the amity and friendship of this young Republic. So it is that the sad and shocking tidings of his passing were quickly followed by a spontaneous and universal outburst of sympathy throughout the civilized world. Wired condolences from presidents and kings, premiers and princes, legislators and commoners, flowed to Malacañan. The United Nations quickly adjourned its session out of respect to the memory of our departed leader.

By his record in office and the circumstances of his death, Manuel Roxas was a champion of democracy. He gave his life not only to his country but also the commonwealth of world democracies. The flame of his life was extinguished at a glorious but tragic moment in Clark Field Air Base when in a public address which proved to be his last, he gave vent to all the fervor of his patriotism and his abiding love of democracy, voicing at the same time his deep dislike for communism and its rapacious and predatory activities the world over. With that fervid speech, he made a sacrificial offering of his life, for shortly after he passed away.

His death symbolizes the unshakable friendship and inseparable destiny of the Philippines and the United States. Reared and educated in the atmosphere of American democracy and American sovereignty, the latter now ended in our land, he breathed his last when his country was already independent and free, in a territory which by treaty continues under the American flag. Thus, he died for both the Philippines and America, two countries which in his lifetime he envisioned as forever working and fighting together for the preservation of their common way of life and the enduring peace of the world. Undoubtedly, his voice shall ever ring where free institutions are worshipped. For his was the supreme sacrifice to world democracy.

History will honor Manuel Roxas for his versatile achievements. It will honor him as a soldier. It will honor him as a statesman. It will honor him as a patriot. It will honor him as the Father of the Republic of the Philippines. Above all else, it will honor him because he had the vision to see clearly the reconstruction of a country cruelly devastated by war and the courage to meet the crisis with firmness and audacity. A hundred years' from now Filipinos will thank God on their bended knees that Manuel Roxas was in Malacañan to give clarity to the confused thoughts of his people and the leadership to elevate their prostrate country at the most critical time.

His assigned work was nobly begun. We can truly honor him only by continuing it with the same patriotic and disinterested devotion, I, therefore, call upon every Filipino—man, woman or child, of every creed and station in life throughout our beloved land—to join me in a sincere spirit of national unity to construct a massive monument of deeds in the bold pattern of his ideals in loving dedication to his revered memory. The present troubled world situation requires that we make this high resolve, brushing aside petty differences, selfish motives and personal ambitions, for the sake of national tranquility and security and for the progress and happiness of our people. My fellow countrymen, as we pray for the eternal repose of our departed illustrious friend, may I also fervently pray in his name and on behalf of posterity that we all heed the call of this hour.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Funeral oration of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, at the necrological services for the late President Manuel Roxas, held at the session hall of the House of Representatives, Lepanto, Manila, on April 25, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(4), 1336-1339.

Second Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Second Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines With the Filipino people

[Released on December 15, 1948]

My Fellow Countrymen:

Exactly a month ago today I announced my intention to share with you periodically a progressive appraisal of our country and its problems. On that occasion, I dwelt in broad terms on the prospects of our future in the light of the unfolding world developments. The perspective I tried to draw had to be merely a general outline of the fundamental course of action which I believe appropriate for our people to follow to attain an orderly life as the basis of our enduring existence as a nation.

Tonight I propose to acquaint you with the conditions of the portions of the country which I have recently visited and to express my observations of the particular problems brought to my attention. We must know the connection of these problems with the overall picture of our national development and objectives. As a matter not only of duty but of self-satisfaction, I have sought to get the feel of things on the spot, to acquire first-hand information with which to determine the relative importance of the problems confronting our local units of government. A correct appraisal of the constructive activities of the different regions of the Archipelago is prerequisite to progressive adjustment in the government endeavor to democratize its benefits and in the determination of the priority of public improvements that may be undertaken. Heretofore, the tendency has been to measure the importance of problems of government from the viewpoint of Manila or from the viewpoints of cities which have developed in fact the same attitude towards all problems. In an atmosphere surcharged with urban interests and attitudes, people talk of big things and even cast their eyes beyond the national frontiers anxious to link their lives with the big world, unmindful of or neglecting what is happening in the national backyard where the mass of toilers are struggling hard to live. Of course, there is nothing wrong in trying to keep up with the big world. But I observe we have been giving of late undue importance to little issues under our nose, magnifying, like myopes, petty speculative bickerings and alleged differences affecting leading personalities in our limited political circles, quite often merely for the delectation of some people who find no better way of forgetting the monotony of life.

I do not belittle the far-reaching effect of certain types of mentality or leadership which, when allowed to play the directing role in the development or guidance of this nation, may swing this new Republic to this or that direction, for or against the ultimate interests of the country. Rather, I should congratulate our people for this public awakening and renewed civic consciousness. What I mean is that the exaggerated indulgence in what appears to be a rampant pastime of a few and the tendency of others for overmuch fault-finding, is outweighing in an alarming proportion the bigger issues developing outside our urban centers and demanding more serious and immediate consideration in the discussion of our present national situation.

The Ship of State, and for that matter the country as a whole, must not be unwittingly rocked by the common rivalry for an opportunity to hold the steering wheel. It is but natural that well-meaning sympathizers should articulate their desire to give their friends a chance at the wheel. As long as they do not lose their high sense of responsibility to the nation, I see no harm in it. That is democracy. Nevertheless, we should not allow self-interest, petty jealousies or unholy motives to mar the beautiful beginnings of our efforts to establish the foundations of our sovereign existence. Pure political or partisan passion should not undermine our work. Constructive thinking and action is the demand of the moment. We should spread the gospel of helpfulness and wise cooperation in the true spirit of nation-building. We should, at least, take advantage of the Yuletide season to permit its regenerating influence to renew our souls and permeate them with the understanding and goodwill necessary to our relief from unwholesome tension and premature wrinkles.

I am happy to have found the people wherever I went in my last trip in the southern islands and Mindanao all very eager to contribute their share in this constructive work. And, unlike on previous occasions when I made inspection trips in different official capacities, I was glad to hear people in general talk now more not only of roads, bridges, schools, irrigation systems to be built, but also of industries and large-scale agricultural development to be established and promoted. People even discussed with me the relative prices of local and imported commodities, exhibiting appreciable knowledge of the trend of foreign trade. They now speak of public health and the establishment of hospitals in the general discussion of the manpower of the nation. Young and old alike on public occasions listened with interest to speeches delivered by the different members of my party, on financial and economic topics such, as the harnessing of hydraulic power, the establishment of fertilizer plants and even the organization of the Central Bank as explained by Congressman Roy, as well as the increased production, procurement and distribution of native rice, and the volume and price of imported rice which was the topic of Congressman Sumulong. The people were never bored. On the contrary, they were deeply eager and interested in hearing discussions of vital problems affecting the nation as well as their respective communities. The chief interest was predominantly economic. They incidentally spoke of politics or elections only in their desire to have an honest and good government or as a necessary corollary to a life of substance and security. This marked change in outlook was to me a manifestation of a new national urge. From Dumaguete to Cebu, from Cebu to the Misamis and Lanao and Bukidnon in Mindanao back to Negros and across the whole island of Panay, the pattern of this new outlook was the same.

But nowhere was I more pleasantly impressed by this fact than in Mindanao where I found the inhabitants completely transformed in temperament. The general economic development of Mindanao has become their greatest concern. The days are gone when Christians were pitted against Mohammedans who resisted for a time the extension of the public school system and civil administration because of suspicion that the Government was interfering with the religion and traditions of the Mohammedan population. The days are gone when the Mohammedan population rivalled for domination among themselves but always joined together in their attempt to drive away the stranger in their land, when they resisted the interference of even the representatives of the central government in the early stages of our national autonomy. The days are gone when we used to call the "Mindanao problem" a problem of peace and order. It is now an economic problem. The inhabitants of Mindanao are now tired of hearing of Mindanao as a mere Land of Promise. They want to hear their new name as an Empire of Wealth. The inhabitants are now maturing in sense of responsibility to the nation and in loyalty to our Government and people as a whole. They are more concerned with the future of the country and their children than at any other epoch in our history as a nation. They have an earnest, aggressive and solid desire to develop Mindanao. And I am convinced that many of our problems in Luzon and other parts of the Archipelago can be speedily solved in conjunction with the development of Mindanao. It will, therefore, be my greatest concern that we take advantage of this favorable situation and atmosphere to hasten the development of that vast island.

During the early days of America's development, the leaders of that epoch used to tell their people; to direct their eyes to the West. At this stage of our national upbuilding, I would earnestly invite that we cast our eyes to the South, Mindanao principally. The development of Mindanao will maintain the balance or equilibrium of our economic life—and perhaps our political life too. With its vast territory, high economic potential, new political outlook, and the ready, ambitious and enthusiastic manpower coming from all regions of the Archipelago, Mindanao constitutes a veritable proving ground for our new economic and political theories. I propose to direct our national efforts to make that region a real asset to the nation.

My countrymen, I leave these thoughts to you tonight to ponder. There is much to gain in enlarging our scope of observation beyond the grooves to which we; have been accustomed. I ask you to judge things as they are and where they are, and not as they are speculated to be, so that in the conscientious discharge of our responsibility to the nation we may the better perform the duties of the day for ourselves, our families, our homes and our country.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Second Monthly Radio Chat of President Elpidio Quirino with the Filipino people, December 15, 1948. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(12), 4813-4816.

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino on the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence Day

**Speech
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the occasion of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence Day**

[Released on June 12, 1948]

LET US ERECT AN ENDURING EDIFICE

On the occasion of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by General Emilio Aguinaldo on June 12, 1948, President Elpidio Quirino invited the veterans of the Philippine Revolution to cooperate with those at the helm of the Republic not only to protect and preserve this edifice but to make it respected by ourselves and by outsiders. The President spoke extemporaneously more or less as follows:

I AM HAPPY to be able to stand on this azotea, which is of historic significance in our struggle for freedom and independence both in the recent war and during the revolution at the turn of the century.

This is my first public appearance in Cavite since the elections of 1946 when, on the same ticket with our late leader and friend President Roxas, I was chosen Vice-President by the suffrage of the people. I shall, therefore, take advantage of this opportunity to express my gratitude to the people of Cavite for the great number of votes registered for our party and for the majority you gave me in 1946. I pray to God that I may be able to justify your confidence and render the service expected of me when you elected me Vice-President.

Fifty years ago today in this town you proclaimed to the world the independence of the Philippines, perhaps never realizing that for the first time in our history you were not only establishing popular sovereignty but giving evidence to the world of our political maturity.

The founders of the Republic established in Malolos in January 1899 were men in the prime of their youth. Those who are at the head of the present Republic are men in the prime of their manhood. But I shall not make any comparison of the work of the former with that of the latter. The only thing that should concern us is whether our common efforts have been a success. We shall not pause to consider and scrutinize the work of those who in 1898 laid the foundations of our first Republic and the work of those who are now directing the affairs of the present Republic. What is important to remember is that we all, both of the first and the present Republics, are endeavoring to erect an enduring edifice of freedom and democracy.

Nor shall we even recall at this moment whether in the construction of this edifice the materials we have contributed came from the north, from the south, or from the center of the archipelago. Neither shall we take note of whether the first story of this edifice is stronger than the second story. Much less should we consider now whether the posts which we erected yesterday were better and answer our needs more than the rafters we placed today. What is important and what should be of concern to us all is that we have been erecting with our common efforts, with our blood, with our lives, with our properties, with our future, one and only one edifice, and that is the Republic of the Philippines, with the achievement of the past leaders and the cooperation of the present ones.

Providence has made me the principal caretaker of this edifice during this epoch. You have invited me to attend this time-honored ceremony to remind ourselves that the foundations of the edifice were laid in 1898. As chief caretaker of this edifice, I invite you to cooperate with me and the rest of the people at the helm of this Government not only to protect and preserve this edifice but to make it respected by ourselves and by outsiders.

Source: Quirino Foundation

Quirino, E. (1949). *The new Philippine ideology*. Manila : Bureau of Printing.

Response of President Quirino to President Truman's toast, August 1948

President Quirino's response to President Truman's toast on the same occasion:

Mr. President, I think it is opportune for me to reveal that there are several reasons why I came to the United States. It was, of course, in response to the gracious invitation of your great President that I decided to come. But, behind that invitation I had my own selfish reasons for coming here.

I remember three: One was to be able to get rid of my political opponents there who were attacking me—I thought I could relax here. The second is that I want to derive inspiration from the career of a President who succeeded to the presidency of the United States after the death of President Roosevelt and got himself elected afterwards. And the third is that most recently I find that I have to prepare myself to answer all those sometimes unholy attacks of my colleagues in the Philippines because of the fact that I am a widower. I think I will be better prepared while in America to defend myself for being still a widower. I don't know if I shall ever follow Vice-President Barkley's example. But I think, I will be learning something from the trial which is being prepared by the Chief Justice with the President of the United States, the Prosecuting Attorney and myself as a special witness—on condition that he give to me the advantages of being a widower in Washington, Mr. President, I feel highly honored to be your guest this evening. I little thought that some day I would be the honored guest of the President of the United States.

Perhaps there is a little bit of a parallel between your career, Mr. President and mine. You just stated that in your youth you were fond of music and had thoughts of being a musician some day.

When I was about that age, 15, I used to draw pictures. I wanted to study painting and aspired to be a noted Philippine painter some day.

You did not have your wish realized and I did not have my wish realized.

But I know you are the President of the greatest republic of the world today and I know too that I am fortunate in being given an opportunity to preside over the destinies of one of your daughter republics.

In England in 1947, I came to know that the Philippines is the granddaughter of England, because America is considered the daughter of the United States, naturally is considered the granddaughter of England.

But I must say at this moment, Mr. President, that the Philippines is the esteemed and only daughter of the United States in the Far East. We are proud of that and we want to assure you we are doing our best to justify the confidence you placed in us in ushering us into the family of nations in 1946.

We are doing our best and the progress of the Philippines is largely a development of the life history of four presidents of the United States. The history of the Philippine Republic is therefore largely the story of four presidents of this great country.

President McKinley stumbled upon the Philippines in 1898. Not knowing what to do about it, he thought of just keeping it not for exploitation but for the purpose of educating the people and preparing them for self-government.

It was President Wilson who conceived the idea of giving us a permanent government and promised to give us our independence as soon as we could stand on our own feet strongly and stably.

It was Franklin Delano Roosevelt who granted us by law that independence and fought for that independent sovereignty during the darkest hour of the Philippines.

But it remained for you, Mr. President, to give life, to give dignity, to give distinction, and, what I expect will be, security for that new republic of the East.

All of which makes us doubly grateful, not only to you, but to this nation of the United States.

For this reason we are proud of you and we are determined to make your handiwork an example of your noble career in your world mission.

May I offer a toast to the President of the United States who today rules the whole world.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

After-luncheon Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino at the Ateneo Alumni Homecoming After-luncheon Extemporaneous Remarks

of

His Excellency Elpidio Quirino

President of the Philippines

At the Ateneo Alumni Homecoming, after having been asked to present the plaques for distinguished service to Father William Masterson, Rector; and Eugenio Lopez and Col. Andres Soriano, alumni

[Delivered on December 12, 1948]

Father Rector, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Friends:

It is rather unusual that, as your guest, I have to accuse those who have invited me to your midst. I charge them with having broken their word. I charge them with maligning my pride. I charge them with converting me into a broom to clean the house which you have no business to destroy. I charge them with being unkind to my profession as a politician and to my party, the Liberal Party. [*Applause.*]

I am very happy to be with you this noon. Your invitation is an honor I have never expected from you gentlemen who have come from a school different from mine. I don't belong. In this your homecoming, when your distinguished alumni from all parts of the Archipelago meet and recount your achievements for the delectation and, perhaps, as a source of pride for the Ateneo de Manila, I don't know what to say. In fact, I have to snatch from the air what inspiration I may be able to draw on the spur of the moment in order to justify the luncheon that you have given me this noon for which I want to congratulate your manager who has served a menu in keeping with my very diet. Perhaps, Dr. Sison here has something to do with it; it seems that the food was even better than what I am permitted to eat at Malacañan. [*Laughter.*]

I really think that I have been invited here just to be a centerpiece on this occasion and lend some importance to the presentation of the plaques to the three gentlemen who have just received them. I think I shall accuse the gentlemen who came to invite me yesterday to be present this morning of a little bit of vanity—Mr. Lopez and the Father Rector. I think they just wanted the Chief Executive to hand them their plaques. If I could do that favor for anybody, why should I not do it to a friend or two friends?

My friendship with Mr. Lopez dates back to the dark days when I was practically politically murdered in 1938. I have a fond recollection of that moment when he expressed his eagerness to see my political comeback. My friendship with the Father Rector is more or less spiritual in nature. When I celebrated my 58th birthday anniversary, I received a spiritual bouquet from the members of the faculty and student body of the Ateneo de Manila. It was very kind of you, all of you who prayed that God may keep me for some more time, and that I be strengthened for and continue with my really difficult task.

In all sincerity, my friends,—and excuse me if I have to be a little bit more serious at this moment—much as you may have to say against the still uncompleted accomplishments of your humble friend, I wish to state that I was riding the highest crest of a big wave of storm and confusion, of recriminations, of suspicion, and even of hate when I took hold of the steering wheel of the ship of state. Of course, because the waves gradually subsided, it did not require much effort, to steady the ship while it was heading for shore. The wave had to go down at any rate. Without much effort, just acting naturally, normally, and without cramping my style, I just tried to guide the ship of state to a safe coast. It stayed steady for some time until, in the backwash, the ship again was caught in the claw of queer forces that rocked it. The ship is still being rocked, perhaps by the forces of prejudice, jealousy, envy, ill-wish, and maybe with a mixture of hate.

I find myself in that predicament today. There is something that I need most—the encouragement, the prompting and guidance, the good wish or goodwill, and the steadying influence of the people I am seeking to serve with honesty and sincerity and with all the determination that I have and am capable of having, in order to guide them through this difficult journey of our ship of state.

Perhaps, I need, more than anybody else, something that will give if not strength at least a steadying influence to the arm that is now holding the hammer that will strike the iron, the hot iron, that is being forged on the anvil of adversity. I wish that when that hammer strikes, it will strike when the iron is hot, so that I shall be able to accomplish my task in shaping the weapons, the implements, the instruments with which we can have the means for a long, enduring existence, and provide for our people their happiness and contentment that we all aspire.

My friends, I need that encouragement. I need that prompting. I need that guidance. I need all the love, the Christian wish that you are capable of extending to me. I came here expecting that you be more kind in appreciating what I am doing today because I hope for nothing but to bring to these our Islands the climate that will nourish our liberty in common with our fellow countrymen and for the good honor, the name and dignity, and the enduring existence of our Republic. Thank you very much. [*Applause.*]

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1948). Extemporaneous after-luncheon remarks of President Elpidio Quirino at the Ateneo Alumni Homecoming, December 12, 1948, after having been asked to present the plaques for distinguished service to Father William Masterson, Rector; and Eugenio Lopez and Col. Andres Soriano, alumni. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 44(12), 4811-4812.

Radio Chat of President Quirino on generosity and tolerance

**Radio Chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On generosity and tolerance**

[Released on November 15, 1949]

GENEROSITY AND TOLERANCE DOES NOT MEAN WEAKNESS

In his third monthly radio chat on January 15, 1949, President Elpidio Quirino cautioned all concerned to make instructive comparisons on the state of the nation between the occupation period and the present era of freedom instead of magnifying apparent shortcomings and misgivings in the honest endeavors of the administration to solve much-exploited anomalies, many of which are mere creations of inventive genius awakened by election prospects. In this radio chat, the President told the people "to ponder in all conscience what changes to make or what may occur, as this may be a crucial year in our political history."

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

I AM GLAD to resume my monthly chat with you over the radio. I think each family ought to have a radio receiver, at least a small, inexpensive one, to enable every member of the community to be informed of the important events in his country and in the world. I feel much closer to you and you to me, thanks to this wonderful instrument which practically every family of modest means can now afford. And you can feel the pulse of government much better, get a more intelligent basis for mutual understanding and cooperation in advancing the common welfare,

I have just returned from an inspection trip to the Bicol region with Speaker Perez. We were able to visit Sorsogon, Albay, Camarines Sur, and Camarines Norte, including, of course, the newly-created cities of Legaspi and Naga. I had the opportunity to see for myself the conditions of the Port of Bulan and the Bulusan National Park, both in Sorsogon, which need immediate improvement to promote the copra industry and to provide tourist attraction. I have seen how the people of Sorsogon have been adversely affected by the devastating typhoons of recent months. Their abaca plantations and coconut groves have been destroyed, greatly reducing the means of livelihood of the people. The destruction of public buildings and private homes has been considerable. Although the people are sturdy and in high spirits, the havoc wrought upon their lives arouses the conscience of visitors.

The same thing is true in Albay as well as in Camarines Sur and Camarines Norte. The Port of Legaspi needs immediate repairs and rehabilitation. Many public buildings and homes destroyed during the war are still in ruins. My personal inspection has given me the opportunity to make careful estimates of the aids that must be extended to make those provinces rise again to their normal pre-war conditions.

But there are several sources of encouragement and incentive which the National Government has provided for these provinces:

The resumption of the railroad service between Manila and Legaspi, which I had occasion formally to inaugurate, has reawakened business and industrial activities.

The conversion of Legaspi and Naga into cities will effectively promote the welfare and happiness of the inhabitants. These cities will develop as greater nerve-centers of trade and culture of the Bicol region.

The resumption of activities in Camarines Norte iron mines owing to the shipment of iron ores to Japan from the stockpiles in Larap, 200,000 tons of which ores are valued at no less than P2,000,000, is bringing to the Philippines

hard American dollars to balance our trade with that country considerably and favorably. At the same time, it assures our people of a good supply of urgently needed farm implements and utensils manufactured from such ores. You will recall as a condition in our agreement with SCAP to export these iron ores, that they must be returned to the Philippines in the form of farm implements and utensils to supply our crying demand for them.

Our expanding program of road and bridge construction is gradually and steadily making possible the automobile connection between the Bicol peninsula and the City of Manila. The time is not far distant when the northern and southern extremes of Luzon from Aparri to Sorsogon will be connected by automobile.

The recent improvement of the airports in Daet, Naga, and Legaspi and the more recent rehabilitation and inauguration of the airport in Virac in the island of Catanduanes have greatly facilitated communication and transportation between Manila and the Bicol provinces.

In short, the resumption of the railroad service to Legaspi, the creation of the two cities of Legaspi and Naga, the improvement and rehabilitation of ports as well as the increase of air transportation facilities to the Bicol region and the construction of more roads and bridges throughout the peninsula are decidedly speeding up the development of one of the vital regions of our country in the promotion of our material progress and cultural advancement.

There still abound in this region many virgin lands and forests; untapped resources such as water power and mineral springs; mines other than gold, iron, and chromite; beautiful lakes, volcanoes, and other tourist attractions; and a great diversity of products especially foodstuffs such as fish of many rich and cheap varieties, chickens, hogs, eggs, and vegetables, which are in demand in Manila's markets. All these are enormous potential sources of wealth and health beckoning to the vision and ingenuity of the nation. I say nation because the government alone cannot cope with the situation. Private capital, private initiative, private resourcefulness, private pioneering spirit must cooperate and coordinate. I invite you all to do so.

While away more than a week from Manila, I have not lost my normal and daily contacts with the city and the outside world, thanks to our effective modern means of communication. I have not been deprived of the opportunity to learn of the daily happenings within and outside our country.

Thus I learned and my heart bled at what happened in Orani when soulless outlaws victimized the innocent population, taking their only food and money, burning their houses, and wantonly killing defenseless citizens; our campaign against these enemies of the people will be intensified. Nearer at home, was the recent tragedy of the needless cremation of half a dozen persons in a fire in Paco, the scene of which I have just personally visited to my great distress; I am getting our city authorities to check up on more of our remaining firetraps in Manila and to remove them with the least possible delay after making a suitable provision for the poor families affected.

On the other hand, I was consoled to hear that in Sulu 200 outlaws had surrendered, thus insuring peace and tranquility in that island, a traditionally known trouble spot of the archipelago under many régimes.

I was also kept abreast of daily developments in Indonesia, in Palestine, in Korea, in China, and in other parts of the world where social, political, and armed conflicts continue testing the souls of the peoples affected. I received the invitation of the Indian Government to attend the conference of Southeast Asian peoples while I was on board the "Argus".

I was happy to learn of recent changes in official Washington—the appointment of Secretary of State Dean Acheson, one of our staunch friends whose personal acquaintance I enjoy, and the recommendation of President Truman to Congress providing for more war-damage funds for the Philippines. These are encouraging signs of the continuation of the beneficent relations between our country and the United States.

I was able to dispatch official matters without loss of time in between inspections and conferences with the people, on board the "Argus" or the "Apo", on the train, and even in the automobile.

I also learned, with some sad amusement, of the daily petty happenings in Manila, of political gossip galore, especially of the activities of people who are busy preparing the atmosphere for the next elections. While Speaker Perez and I were busy discussing with the people in the localities we visited about the construction and repair of roads, schools, municipal buildings, and irrigation systems; about the rehabilitation of the abaca and coconut industries, the establishment of more agricultural farms and schools of fisheries; about the promotion of the tourist trade, and about the general economic activities, plans, and enterprises of the government, some unoccupied, prosperous people of our bustling capital have been raising anew political partisan differences, sowing more confusion in an already confused metropolitan population, following the traditional pattern of old periodic political bickerings. O Lord, when shall we be cured of this evil, this uneconomic and unedifying wastage of valuable energy!

Such has been the experience of our democratic country ever since we learned to enjoy the freedom of speech and of the press. Many of us indulge, for a pastime, in the so-called “democratic practices”—of mud-slinging, character assassination or moral lynching, and self-adulation, and pretend we are following a fruitful way of creating sane and alert public opinion.

Many people seem so eager to get pent-up feelings of frustration out of their system; or to release imprisoned thoughts conceived, in some cases, in undoubtedly unhealthy or unhappy surroundings. Some would dig deep into the distant past, not only of our country but of other very ancient countries, perhaps to distract attention or to direct our eyes beyond our own frontiers in order to forget our sad experiences, our sufferings, our humiliations and cruel tortures of our recent and bloody past.

I think it would be more healthy and beneficial to all concerned to study recent events and learn our lessons from them and, in our present struggle for survival, acquire new courage and new vision to face the future. Instead of magnifying apparent shortcomings and misgivings in the honest endeavors of the administration to solve much-exploited anomalies many of which are creations of inventive genius awakened by election prospects, we might make instructive comparisons on the state of the nation between the occupation period and the present era of freedom. We should not mistake patience for fear; nor should we confuse generosity and tolerance with weakness and indecision. Then we may benefit from the record of each period and lead our people to a more intelligent and realistic appraisal of the situation in which the prophets of yesterday would place this country in the face of our international relations, friendship, and commitments, past or present.

The country would be greatly benefited by a more searching analysis of conditions—of things and men, their fates and fortunes—in the darkest as well as in the brightest hour of our history.

This may be a crucial year in our political history.

Convictions change, aspirations change, and the country changes in accordance with the manner in which those who lead or want to lead are tempered in the hours of greed and in the hours of need.

Political changes will greatly affect the course of our march to progress and security. We must ponder in all conscience what changes to make or what may occur. Let us do some sober thinking. Self-forgetfulness, self-effacement, self-abnegation are of the essence of fruitful meditation. Let us have more of it for the sake of our children.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1949). *The new Philippine ideology*. Manila : Bureau of Printing.

Fifth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino, March 15, 1949

The President's Fifth Monthly Radio Chat, March 15, 1949:

IN my previous monthly radio chats, I have repeatedly touched on the constructive program of this administration, warning against distraction by electioneering propaganda. The electioneering season is now on and feverishly, too. It is becoming more enlightening as well as interesting. Many appear to relish the mutual brickbats hurled from various opposing camps. However, I think the minds of our people should be set at rest on certain subjects so that they can proceed rightly and undisturbed in their productive activities.

Dubious comparisons have been raised in the public mind regarding the situation in our country in the last 50 years. The present administration has been characterized as the worst during that period. This judgment should be of interest to historians. Knowing as I do the source of the sweeping diatribe, I expected more sober observation and more intellectual responsibility in picturing the conditions obtaining in our country today.

It is really refreshing, not to say fascinating, to bring back to our minds the life of our people during the American regime, the Commonwealth regime and the Japanese regime in contrast to the present regime. I have never intended to dwell on this subject, but now we do need a little bit of light, relaxing distraction after these two or three weeks of political and partisan tension in our country.

I said before, and I repeat it now, that we must beware of deliberate misrepresentation of our country and people for local political consumption. It will hurt us abroad and affect our business at home.

Gratuitous denunciation has been made to the effect that thousands of children are still out of school for lack of accommodation. Maybe these children are not yet of school age. For in all our history as a young nation this is the first time in which no child of school age can complain of having no place in our public schools. An annual school crisis used to plague us since the early years of the American regime. Certainly not now.

Pious lamentation has also been expressed about the existence of suffering among our people. There is no country in the world, as there never has been, where there are no suffering people. Yet beggars in our streets today are the exception rather than the rule. We do not see under our new Republic people scavenging among the garbage dumps and searching refuse cans for food.

The same source bewails the present state of peace and order. Up to more than a year ago kidnappings, murders and holdups, especially in trouble areas, seemed to be the order of the day. Today such happenings are news. There are less people to feed in jail now. People travel freely most everywhere and more quickly, by land, sea and air, to an extent that was not hitherto enjoyed. Certainly, nobody is sent to concentration camps or to torture garrisons because of what he thinks or believes. We do not hear or read of anybody being beheaded or tortured under the very nose of our government for disloyalty to an invader or foreign authority.

There is a frivolous charge that this is not a real democratic country. Our press has never been more free and uninhibited, and more jealous of its prerogatives. People talk freely throughout the length and breadth of this lively Republic against public officials, against government institutions, against anybody on any subject. I have my full share of daily systematic abuse. Indeed, our press enjoys the one-sided privilege of attacking, and is resentful to the quick if attacked in turn. And our public officials have a healthier fear for their skin because of such a fact; and, consequently, can ill afford to be cynical about anomalies or irregularities committed by them.

Our prophets of disaster also would picture this country as still prostrate. Six or seven years ago, yes: we were not only prostrate then but enslaved and humiliated. And up to two years ago we were practically begging from generous friends for a living. But thank the Lord, not now. Business is more brisk than ever, goods are plentiful, our people even in the remotest communities and barrios of the country are better dressed, their diet has been immensely improved, and they look more healthy than they ever did. And what is more, we are proud of our new personality and reputation as a nation.

Our people now are more enterprising, more wide-awake and more keen in their individual pursuits. They can produce and accumulate wealth more legitimately now than they were able to do during the confusion of the occupation as well as shortly after liberation. They are, of course, being compelled today to pay their income and war profits taxes. They should pay, to be really good citizens.

At this juncture I want to touch on government in business. Our government is in business not for profit but for service. At various times the government has been criticized for losing money in some of its national enterprises. Thus when the NARIC, for example, was reported making money, it was denounced for reaping profits ostensibly at the expense of the people. To ease the situation caused by the rice blackmarket, I ordered a reduction in the price of rice, which almost ate up its profits. Then the government was criticized for such losses and it was suggested that the government should close shop before sinking more pesos in an apparently unprofitable business.

Now that I have issued instructions to lease, sell or otherwise dispose of government corporations which can be operated by private enterprise, after our having been able to show that they can be operated efficiently and profitably, I may again be criticized for doing away with a good source of government income.

The electioneering propaganda gets you coming or going. It becomes a simple game of heads I win, tails you lose. Just imagine me being accused of dictatorship and being denounced in the same breath as weak. A weak executive cannot lead, much less dictate.

Some people mistake the tolerance and even the encouragement of almost cruel public scrutiny of public officials as lack of strength in the authority of the government. They confuse respect for constitutional rights and democratic processes with lack of leadership. And yet when the government steps in and compels obedience to its laws, it is branded as dictatorial or fascistic. There is no real measure or valuation of the right attitude in administering the law except the conscientious exercise of judgment at opportune moments to achieve an orderly and peaceful conduct of government.

The trouble is that the present local atmosphere prompts us to occupy ourselves too much with personalities. Thus we risk losing sight of the country's vital interests. We should be more concerned with how to keep this country stable and respected than with how to maintain a man's position in the government.

I am pictured as being vindictive, persecuting my political enemies. When I took over the Presidency, I started cleaning up, dismissing from office some justices of the peace, chiefs of police, accounting officers and other persons found guilty of abuse of authority, incompetence, lack of integrity and other forms of dereliction of public duty. I was then criticized that only the small fish were the object of the campaign to rid the government of corrupt officials. But when certain high officials were eventually prosecuted in the courts and there are still others that will have to stand judgment as a result of the investigations ordered by me within one month after my assumption of office, I am accused of political persecution and of creating martyrs to the cause of honest government.

The leadership that some people would want is one with a big club imposing absolute authority. They could not, apparently, easily get away from the shadow of our tutelage period and the occupation. They seem afraid to grow up.

I have a different procedure. I would rather inspire respect than impose it. I would rather have people believe in me and like me than to distrust me and fear me. Love lasts longer than hate. And we need more love. I believe with President Theodore Roosevelt in being soft in language but carrying a big stick in hand, just in case. I believe in firm action but not just to scare people. I do not propose to keep firing simply because I have the gun and the ammunition. "Panggulat" is not in my vocabulary.

I believe in sharing responsibility with the people. That is why I go to them and talk to them in the provinces, in the farthest-flung communities. I visit them in their slums instead of merely warming my swivel chair in the Palace. This is the people's epoch and whatever has to be done must reckon with their will and their wisdom and their support. That I am getting this support from our people from every section of our country and from every walk of life, I am happy to acknowledge here in humble gratitude. The messages I have been getting from them in increasing

volume without distinction as to party, region and creed affirm my faith beyond measure. I cannot be afraid with such support. I propose to continue in my thankless job. Let the people judge me rightly when I am through with it. As long as I have their support, my conscience will not be disturbed.

Now let me touch on the Senate crisis. It has virtually paralyzed legislative labor for three weeks. It has threatened the country, in the wild imaginations of some people, with bloodshed and revolution as passions ran high. It was feared that our leaders would lose their bearings, and that a cataclysm was imminent, threatening to destroy our democratic institutions and expose our country to civil war, risking the loss of whatever we have dearly won in our bitter struggle for political freedom and undermining the stability of our Republic which is the envy of other peoples still aspiring for freedom.

The case has now been finally resolved by the Supreme Court, upholding the legality of the election of Senator Cuenco as Acting President of the Senate. I am happy that we have been able to weather the dangers most feared. Constitutional processes have triumphed. No evidence of our having come of age politically can be more eloquent. It is a heartening demonstration that our democratic institutions have the strength to survive.

Now that the senate crisis has been settled, I invite our people to resume our normal activities, concentrate especially on constructive endeavors and make up for time lost by accelerating our productive efforts. The Senate crisis has been a highly instructive political intermezzo in the life of our nation although some of us have lost sight of the public interest in the confusion. Now we should feel the full weight once again of our national responsibility. To our leaders then is addressed the challenge to give fully the best of themselves in vision, in patriotism and in statesmanship. To all of us, the challenge of the hour is sobriety and sense of proportion.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Sixth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino, April 15, 1949

**Sixth Monthly Radio Chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To his fellow countrymen**

[Delivered from the Mansion House, Baguio, April 15, 1949]

MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

I wish to dedicate my thoughts tonight to a departed friend who, exactly one year ago at this very hour, was called to the side of the Almighty. The nation remembers him now as Christendom remembers the Saviour of mankind on this Good Friday. For in truth, Manuel Roxas died on the cross of public duty only to rise again and live for always in the conscience of his country.

As time pulls together the loose threads of his life activities, we who are left behind can discern more clearly the magnitude of his benign influence on his country and people.

We mortals are wont to be over-gallant and generous in expressing bereavement immediately after the loss of a friend and within the hearing of weeping kinsmen. But what were said upon the death of Manuel Roxas have stood the test of patriotic scrutiny. As his figure recedes in our mental horizon, his deeds remain as golden grain sifted from the chaff created by bias, prejudice or mere kindness.

Thus we speak of Manuel Roxas today subjectively against a background not only of his accomplishments but of his spiritual influence upon the mind and soul of the people he loved so well.

Only those close by his side who have, at every step, followed his thorny path and pursued the same objectives in his high concept of public duty, can best interpret how much he suffered in his endeavors and how much more he should be glorified.

To organize a Republic, to lay the foundations of its enduring existence, to grapple with unusually cruel circumstances in an atmosphere of despair and devastation and with utmost calm and composure, to deliver his people from prostration and lift them to prosperity and distinction—that was the task of Manuel Roxas.

It was perplexing, vexing, and taxing to the limit. It was a job for a mortal who must be more than ordinary.

The task overcame his body, but not his spirit. His inspiration today is greater than what passing admirers could regard as his worldly accomplishments. As long as a grateful and intelligent people knows how to appreciate a man's greatness on the basis of integrity, patriotism, creativeness and devotion to the people's welfare, Manuel Roxas will ever continue to be the symbol of Filipino capacity to build a nation.

Truly, he was a great builder but, like other great builders he was also greatly misunderstood. He was misunderstood while he lived, as was Jesus Christ who was tortured by the very people whom He sought to redeem. Roxas had too good and kind a heart to retaliate or desroy those who were destroying him, or attempted to destroy him. He was determined not to be distracted in his vast work of nation-building. He was too preoccupied with his task to watch others undermining the great work that he was doing. Nor did he lose time to answer the revilements of jealous ill-wishers who harassed him. He just went right on, taking no notice of them. Perhaps he was repeating all along in his mind the Spanish poet's description of a traveler, who said:

*“Si he de parar
Para oir ladrar*

public duty of Roxas; I invoke the charity of the man from Galilee who, in the midst of His agony, benignly turned to His torturers and said, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Sixth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(4), 1694-1696.

Remarks of President Quirino before the Executive and National Committees of the Liberal Party

**Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the Executive and National Committees of the Liberal Party**

[Delivered in Baguio, May 7, 1949]

THE GREATEST CONSOLATION IN MY THANKLESS JOB

In the following remarks in response to the resolutions of confidence and loyalty to his leadership by the executive and the national committees of the Liberal Party and by the provincial governors and city mayors in convention in Baguio, in the morning of May 7, 1949, President Elpidio Quirino expressed his deep appreciation for the vote of confidence given his leadership which he likened to a gentle flower coming to him "from the filth and mud to which he had been dragged in our recent political and partisan bickerings."

The President declared that "rather than lament the recent political convulsions that have apparently shaken seriously our political institutions, we should thank the efforts of our alert, aggressive, and impulsive leaders in Congress for having stirred the country from its lethargy and complacency and a long-established and tolerated order of life that was undermining the existence of our political institution and robbing us of the name, reputation, and respect that we now enjoy in the council of nations."

I APPRECIATE more than I can express your vote of confidence in my leadership. The yearning of my life is to so conduct myself that nobody will ever consider it misplaced. It came to me like a gentle flower from the filth and mud to which I have been dragged in our recent political and partisan bickerings. I have a feeling that at long last I am coming upon the oasis in the desert years of my public life.

We are gathered this morning to exalt our political institution. The successive political events that have rocked the nation from the center of legislative power have been a revelation to me. Yet it may appear strange to you that I feel happy in having been chosen as one of the incidents in the supreme test of the soundness of our political institution. Subjected as I have been to the cruelest public scrutiny and emerging thereafter enjoying the esteem and confidence of my colleagues in the executive and legislative departments of our government, I can not ask for anything more from you. All that should vindicate my name as a public servant.

The resolution of the provincial governors and city mayors in convention the other day and the resolution of the National Committee of the Liberal Party today, reiterating the confidence of my colleagues in the government and in the party in my actuations as head of this nation and of the party, constitute the greatest consolation in my thankless job of establishing in this country a regime of respect for the law and the conscience of this nation.

Others like me have been placed on the carpet in the merciless crusade for a clean and honest government. It should not be queer that, having started the movement, I should be dragged into the vortex of its fury. There is a native saying that whoever wields the broom "gets the dust." My only regret is that in wielding the broom, I have been mistaken for the dust. The outcome of the other cases has been varied and different. But the ultimate result, by the national estimation of this unusual effort of the epoch, vindicates the name of our people and reaffirms the stability and strength of our democratic institution. We have proven beyond doubt not only national resiliency but also political stability.

No wonder that in our tutelage under different powers and systems of government, in our bitter experiences as a struggling people, in our multiple contacts with foreign elements employing heretofore unknown weapons of conquest, of domination, and of absorption, we have trained ourselves to grapple within and without, with our taxing national problems, for survival as a people. And this generation that has inherited the wisdom and experience of our

earlier leaders and the epochal struggles of our race, has been able to derive inspiration from our leaders of the past. Thus, we have known how to employ on opportune occasions the alertness, aggressiveness, or impulsiveness of a Quezon; or on other occasions the patience and deliberation of an Osmeña; and at times, the brilliance and vision of a Roxas, or the audacity of an Aguinaldo; but, all the time, the inspiration and spirit of self-abnegation and love of country of Rizal and his colleagues in the early awakening of our national consciousness. Verily, we now present a new pattern in our political life that we have only discovered as we knit the loose threads that had characterized the different leaderships throughout our national history. Thus, the new pattern of democracy in its color and texture as established in this country, is not only peculiar to our country as a unique product of international influences but also adaptable in this era of universal readjustment. I can now see and conclude that as long as we do not destroy the warp and woof of our national life, the new pattern that we have established in this part of the Orient shall survive and endure.

So, rather than lament the recent political convulsions that have apparently shaken seriously our political institution, we should thank the efforts of our alert, aggressive, and impulsive leaders in Congress for having stirred the country from its lethargy and complacency and a long-established and tolerated order of life that was undermining the existence of our political institution and robbing us of the name, reputation, and respect that we now enjoy in the council of nations.

I like to see the direct and incisive philosophy of political life of Tañada, the tactical maneuvers of Arranz, the big stick of Mabanag, the coolness and earnestness of Cuenco, the piercing malice and wisdom of Diokno, the technical resourcefulness of Francisco, the abrupt and clean-cut actuations of Lopez, the political romanticism of Sanidad, the uproarious outbursts of Pendatun, and even the curious malignment of Angeles David—all these in the Upper House, stirring the political hornet's nest, but all calming down and subsiding in reverence to our laws, to our Constitution, and to our high responsibilities as leaders of this nation, accepting with grace the verdict of history in the present stage of our national life.

I could only say the same thing in the Lower House: the partisan consistency and stubbornness of Primicias, the immovable firmness and coolness of Sumulong, the gentle and tactful influence of Leuterio, and the fatherly guidance of our *Manong*, just to enumerate a few examples.

My great hope and earnest wish is that, after this interesting experiment in our national evolution, we can now turn our attention to other phases of our national objectives.

So much for our political life. I shall invite you to turn a new leaf and open a new chapter in our economic life. This is where we need less political theorizing and experimentation.

Now that our house is in order, let us go out to the premises, to the backyard, to the garden, to the farm, to the forest, to the mountains, and even to the air, and contemplate the whole panorama of our national life. We cannot live in honor, righteousness, and honesty alone. The new evangels of this era cannot continue merely preaching their abstract aspirations. We can no longer soar high, mixing ourselves with the molecules in an effort to find the ways and means of feeding our people, providing them with the human necessities to make our lives worth living in a practical and troubled world.

Positive efforts, concrete endeavors, and substantial achievements are the inescapable bases of our enduring existence. It was right, when we were still planning for the future, to scan the skies, interpret the movements of the planets, and invoke spiritual guidance from the unknown, giving expression to our imprisoned thoughts in our vague intrusions into the unexplored and the unexpected. As long as this nation must lean upon something solid on which to lay the foundations of a stable economic life as the fountain source of the contentment and happiness that we must afford to our people, we must clip our wings and discontinue making ambiguous, philosophical disquisitions on the manner with which we should solve our practical problems as a nation.

Our action must be positive and not negative, distilling from the misgivings or failures of others a program of action based on mere theorizing. The problems of state are vital, practical, and concrete. We live in a confused world where

a person does not know where to stand firm and secure unless he counts not only upon his individual efforts to stand on his own feet but also on the support of others struggling for co-existence, mutual protection, and goodwill.

Much of the success of any living creature does not depend merely upon its isolated existence. There is something that should supplement and complement its life in a society created by the Great Master. No nation lives by itself alone at this moment. It must count upon friends, upon the sympathy of others, upon friendship, upon the one thousand and one things that make human relations the determining factor in a successful human existence.

Thus, as we put our house in order and establish here a stable political and economic life, we must cast our eyes beyond our confines and look for the society, the company, and the friendship of other nations that make of our national life a real part of world institutions. That is our new life, our new aspiration, our outlook, as a new democracy. In achieving our high purposes and objectives, as leaders of this country, we must, therefore, examine our conscience, our very acts, to see if they are in keeping with the high ideals of community life in this new world. We should not sacrifice our country's future simply because we want to lead this nation when, in so doing, we know very well that we may be sacrificing the permanent interest of the country and people. The real test is our readiness to sacrifice self for country.

Many of you have exposed and perhaps sacrificed your political fortunes in the most recent test of our country's stability. Your greatest hope, your greatest consolation, your biggest reward, will be the recognition of your patriotic efforts by those who succeed you. I invite you all to continue unrelenting in the noble cause that you have espoused for the country's name. The Liberal Party has shown to the whole world that it knows how to clean its house, that it is true to its high principles of government, and earnest in establishing a constructive regime for the permanent existence of our Republic. You cannot be ashamed of its actuations; you cannot be discouraged by the results; you cannot in all dignity retreat in your steps as leaders of this Party by destroying the organization or renouncing its responsibility, or changing its name—the name which you and I have justly redeemed in our recent efforts in the Administration.

As for me, I am still proud that I am a Liberal. I have gone through a thorny path in the realization of the Party objectives. I have the distinction of being the first Chief Executive of the land to be impeached for seemingly reproachable acts under the Constitution, under our laws, and under our traditions as a people.

“I care not what the world may seem,
Not if the day is bright or dim;
I do not count the pangs of years,
Nor tell of hours I spent in tears,
Because I know God still sends
The light and warmth that I may need,
Because I know, I know God blends
The joys and tears to make my creed.”

Thus, I thought and expressed myself in early youth; thus I think and express myself in my, declining years. God willing, I will continue the crusade and fight it through. With your continued support and promptings and the strength I am confident you will always give me in sinews and in morale, I expect to justify your actuations and mine, and earn the favorable verdict of history!

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Radio Chat of President Quirino on the Noble Example of Jose Abad Santos

**Radio Chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the noble example of Jose Abad Santos**

[Released on May 15, 1949]

THE NOBLE EXAMPLE OF JOSE ABAD SANTOS

In his seventh monthly radio chat on May 15, 1949, President Elpidio Quirino called upon the nation to dedicate its thoughts to Jose Abad Santos whose noble example added dignity and character to our people and gave true meaning to the phrase "loyalty to country". He said that the faith which gloriously lighted this hero and martyr of the race must continue to fire our hearts to increased consecration, effort, and sacrifice.

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

BY proclamation I have designated May 15th each year as Jose Abad Santos Day so that on this day the nation may dedicate its thoughts to this hero and martyr of the race and instill in the mind of our youth his qualities and character that made him truly great.

The history of nations is the story of their great men. Their intellectual, scientific, and military achievements, their wisdom, and their moral examples are more enduring than the material and outward manifestations of their genius and the landmarks of their life activities. Thus, the cross upon which Jesus Christ was nailed at Calvary could not stand the test of time, yet the love for humanity that emanated from that crucifixion shall never die in the human soul. It is the crucifixion and not the cross that perpetuates His noble example.

So, tonight, we weave into the texture of our race the noble example of Jose Abad Santos to add character and dignity to our people. And we do it at the most opportune time when many of us are beginning to forget the greatest trials and sufferings that made him accept the supreme sacrifice. He could have saved his life if he had chosen to live as others did choose to live and enjoy living under the same circumstances. But to Jose Abad Santos, loyalty to his country and people was far more important than life itself. For he knew well that it was not his life that the Japanese wanted but his name as the veritable symbol of his government at that time, and he preferred to give his life rather than his name—the name of his people. And if he had accepted the role that the Japanese wanted him to play, inviting his people to surrender and cooperate with the cruel invader, he would have killed the fire that burned in every Filipino heart to resist those who would rob them of the opportunity to live a life of freedom and dignity.

His resistance was not enough, but the example he gave electrified every Filipino heart and soul to continue resisting to the end. Jose Abad Santos gave true meaning to the phrase "loyalty to country". In his last words to his son, he enjoined his children to live up to his name.

On this special day I, therefore, want that the youth of the land should live up to his name and emulate his example.

I know of no life more usefully and positively lived in the interest of his country, fully sharing its high and difficult moments of crisis and peril. The simplicity of his manner, the loftiness of his outlook, the discipline of his mind, the clearness of his vision, and the charity of his heart, as cultivated in a lifetime of rich, devoted service to his countrymen, explain the serenity of spirit with which he met the challenge of the supreme sacrifice in the final hour and gave it the touch of deathless victory.

Let us refresh our memory regarding the circumstances of his death. When he was taken captive by the enemy in Cebu on April 11, 1942, he was acting as Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Government. The Japanese wanted

him to cooperate, and offered him the opportunity to continue as head of his people's government under Japanese dictation. The call of public service had always had an irresistible appeal to him, not that he simply wanted to wield power and influence but that he considered public service an unavoidable duty of a good citizen. Many a time in his long career of public service he had had to give up his lucrative law practice or a high position in order to serve in another capacity which the State had demanded of him. He invariably had yielded, for he had a weakness for his people's welfare and was always their devoted servant. But not this time. He could not be a willing instrument of an alien ideology and program of conquest.

Because he refused to become a "puppet", he was executed in Malabang, Lanao, on May 7 of the same year. His steadfastness is a tale of devotion to duty, courage, and heroism that will bear repeating to our posterity. It sustains the tradition of our greatest martyrs to liberty, and it will always remain an incorruptible spiritual armor against alien subjugation and slavery.

In the imminence of death, without benefit of an applauding audience, he affectionately chided his son and only friendly company: "Do not cry . . . This is a rare opportunity for me to die for our country; not everybody is given that chance."

There could not have been a greater, more impressive act of faith. Jose Abad Santos believed in the ultimate triumph of his country's cause. He believed in the potentialities of that country as the home of a free, progressive, and self-respecting people.

The faith which gloriously lighted Jose Abad Santos in death is still aflame among our people. It must continue to fire our hearts to increased consecration, effort, and sacrifice. It should fortify us against another alien way of life that is beginning to cast its grim shadow upon us and is threatening us with its servitude.

Strange as it may seem, we again hear many voices promising speedy salvation from the confusion and distress which they are helping to sow in the midst of our greatest efforts to reconstruct the country that but yesterday they delivered to the enemy. A goodly proportion of such voices will seek to disguise their inclination and intention to toy with the absolutist techniques of terrorism to bring about the promise of the kind of heaven others ostensibly realized elsewhere. We have heard similar voices before when the success of the last dream of conquest was seemingly at such full high tide. We were not deceived then, and we should not be deceived now. We can at all times check their words against their deeds.

Jose Abad Santos in his time knew of a nobler dream and a nobler promise of life for his people. Eschewing survival for his own self, he gave that dream and that promise the loyalty that he had learned from the heroes and martyrs of our early struggles for freedom and the good life. He wanted to prove, and he did, that there had been and will be Filipinos capable of loyalty to the vision of a truth that could really make men free. He was not dominated by the sheer lust for power nor enticed by the pathological pleasures and satisfactions derived from unbridled exercise of it. His country was fighting for a principle, not for temporary prerogatives. He sacrificed the latter to enthrone the former. In doing so, he gave up his life. What a noble example! Philippine history contains beautiful chapters of heroic deeds, noble achievements and martyrdoms of sons and daughters of our sturdy race, who in one epoch or another in our epic struggle for freedom, have shown the admirable character of the Filipino people. But one shining example of heroism and martyrdom that sprang from the darkness of the most unhappy and unfortunate period in our centuries of struggle and longing, redeeming all that was execrable and disgraceful to our name as a people, was Jose Abad Santos' valor and courage exhibited at two o'clock in the afternoon of May 7, 1942 in the jungle of Malabang when, calmly as Rizal did and facing the cowards serene and unperturbed, he smilingly met death to give a worthy legacy to a worthy people.

Yes, this is our dynamic inheritance. But as any other inheritance, it may be dissipated or misused. Already, loyalty to our country is being flippantly invoked; and, assuming the trappings of public interest, claiming the welfare of the masses as exclusive personal prerogative or promising redress to the suffering of the so-called downtrodden, many a scoundrel would perpetrate the most heinous crimes of murder and robbery with the cynical complacency and approval of those who would draw political strength from such dastardly acts. They mistake loyalty to the Constitution and laws of the country, loyalty to society, and loyalty to their own brethren and benefactors for

personal loyalty to a group of men in power whom they hate for not allowing them to continue committing their depredations. And what is worse, in their avowed loyalty to a foreign principle, they forget that they are Filipinos and only remember that foreign promptings are justified in so far as they promote their violent bid for power. Thus, the security of the State, the security of their own people, their own security, are exposed in the name of misplaced loyalty to an alien doctrine. Nor are they guided by any principle at all, except the primitive principle of survival in the life of the jungle.

My fellow countrymen, the inheritance that Jose Abad Santos left us is the inheritance for the good life,—the inheritance of peace, the inheritance of dignity, the inheritance of love of country, the inheritance of love of our fellowmen. To die for the country as he did is the hallmark of the truly noble soul. Let us at this hour grasp all the meaning and worth of that inheritance. And may the youth of the land catch the spark of Jose Abad Santos' life and kindle in their soul a similar flame that will never die. This is the meaning of this special day.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1949). *The new Philippine ideology*. Manila : Bureau of Printing.

Eulogy by President Quirino at the necrological services in Honor of the late Justice Frank Murphy

**Eulogy
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the necrological services in Honor of the late Justice Frank Murphy**

[Delivered at the Malacañan Palace, July 26, 1949]

DEAR FRIENDS:

I look upon this occasion today as a most grateful privilege to dedicate a few words to Justice Frank Murphy.

The different American chief executives from Taft to Murphy who have ruled the Philippines have left varied impressions upon our people. Governor Taft launched the slogan "the Philippines for the Filipinos"; Governor Forbes earned the sobriquet of "road-builder"; Governor Harrison championed the Filipinization of the government service; Governor Wood was the well-meaning if somewhat autocratic proconsul; Governor Stimson was an intelligent and stern administrator; and Governor Roosevelt cultivated the man in the street. It remained to Governor Murphy to seek and reach the soul of our people, taking them into his heart, giving full meaning to the dignity of the common man, and forging the community of spirit that now binds the Filipino and American peoples.

Of all the varied accomplishments gratefully remembered of him as the last American governor-general and first high commissioner, that was the achievement that lingers in mind and is still felt by the people he served with the deepest solicitude, here or in the United States, in any capacity in which he was placed.

I recall his last message in reaction to the untimely fate of Mrs. Quezon. "It is still unbelievable to me," he wrote... "I only long for the day when I can visit her resting place and place a flower and say a prayer for that precious spirit. She helped me more than I can tell you when I was Governor-General and was seeking the path to help the Filipinos rule their own land."

It was characteristics of his solicitude and humility to add in his last letter to me an offer to do any "errand" within his power for our people, and to hope that I was "pleased with the manner" in which the Philippine War Relief organization which he presided until his death was being preserved for any emergency. He was very proud to have administered this organization amid the arduous duties of his office as member of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Governor Murphy was part of that wave of active liberalism which swept America following her worst economic depression and extended its power to the Philippines. He gave impulse and impetus to the social justice movement which our beloved President Quezon has left to us as his most creative legacy, and which we are today implementing and carrying to successful fruition through the execution of our social amelioration program.

That the Governor was able to do so with no loud dramatization of his beliefs and authority was a triumph of character. He made no parade of his social and religious faith. He just lived it—in the acts of judicious tolerance, of warm charity, of simple humility, of tempered justice which marked his passage among the people of this land. He did so because it was deep in his instincts to do so. He must have been sustained by inner courage to face a world in which "there were no guarantees of success and where one had to risk his life on his daily guesses."

After Governor Murphy had lived in Malacañan, it was easier for our people under Manuel Quezon and ever since. It was he who gave it, and all that it represents now in our life as a young democracy, the common touch without vulgarizing it. Those who came fearing stuffy dogmatism in Murphy went away pleasantly disappointed: and they carried away with them their first meaningful experience of grass-roots Americanism and self-respect.

Murphy's democracy lay not in hinting at private, absolute or esoteric solutions for the redemption of the people but in his generous and open faith in the capacity of the common man to evolve practical if tentative answers to common difficulties in the common effort to develop and fulfill individual and national potentialities.

To him democracy as conceived and expressed in the Declaration of Independence and in the American Constitution was something more than a method of government. "It was," as he affirmed in his last message as Governor-General to the legislature of our Commonwealth in 1935, "a passionate political faith. It was a faith in the natural capacities and inherent possibilities of the common man, in his essential worth and dignity. In the scheme of democracy, as in the code of Christianity, all men were on a common level of dignity and importance. In this sense . . . Christianity and democracy were twin-born. They provide for the common men, without distinction of race or clime, a way of salvation from forces of oppression and greed and selfishness."

For a man of deep faith and high responsibility, he had no delusions of self-anointment and demanded no unquestioning intellectual or spiritual obeisance. In his dealings with our people, he made us feel the great lesson of humility—that there are vast realms beyond our ken or control, that the great blessing of inner peace is unattainable without "a sense of the mystery of creation about us and a wisely cultivated resignation to our mortal but inevitable limitation." He conveyed to us a sense of "the mystic potency in our fellow human beings." He shared with us a feeling of the immortality which we achieve when we identify ourselves with those human values that the process of time can never adequately realize or destroy.

Governor Murphy truly loved our people for their own sake, and our people loved him in turn. He was a great American, an honest democrat, a true liberal because he was a good man and he had great faith. Many a distinct landmark left in our history may wear away with time. Not so the influence of Governor Murphy's spirit as it touched and pervaded the heart and soul of those, who knew and understood him. We shall never forget him. His memory we shall always cherish.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Eulogy by President Elpidio Quirino of the late Justice Frank Murphy at the necrological services in honor of the late jurist in Malacañan Palace, at 4 p.m., Tuesday, July 26, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(7), 2802-2804.

Radio Chat of President Quirino on the Noble Example of Jose Abad Santos

**Radio Chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the noble example of Jose Abad Santos**

[Released on May 15, 1949]

THE NOBLE EXAMPLE OF JOSE ABAD SANTOS

In his seventh monthly radio chat on May 15, 1949, President Elpidio Quirino called upon the nation to dedicate its thoughts to Jose Abad Santos whose noble example added dignity and character to our people and gave true meaning to the phrase "loyalty to country". He said that the faith which gloriously lighted this hero and martyr of the race must continue to fire our hearts to increased consecration, effort, and sacrifice.

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

BY proclamation I have designated May 15th each year as Jose Abad Santos Day so that on this day the nation may dedicate its thoughts to this hero and martyr of the race and instill in the mind of our youth his qualities and character that made him truly great.

The history of nations is the story of their great men. Their intellectual, scientific, and military achievements, their wisdom, and their moral examples are more enduring than the material and outward manifestations of their genius and the landmarks of their life activities. Thus, the cross upon which Jesus Christ was nailed at Calvary could not stand the test of time, yet the love for humanity that emanated from that crucifixion shall never die in the human soul. It is the crucifixion and not the cross that perpetuates His noble example.

So, tonight, we weave into the texture of our race the noble example of Jose Abad Santos to add character and dignity to our people. And we do it at the most opportune time when many of us are beginning to forget the greatest trials and sufferings that made him accept the supreme sacrifice. He could have saved his life if he had chosen to live as others did choose to live and enjoy living under the same circumstances. But to Jose Abad Santos, loyalty to his country and people was far more important than life itself. For he knew well that it was not his life that the Japanese wanted but his name as the veritable symbol of his government at that time, and he preferred to give his life rather than his name—the name of his people. And if he had accepted the role that the Japanese wanted him to play, inviting his people to surrender and cooperate with the cruel invader, he would have killed the fire that burned in every Filipino heart to resist those who would rob them of the opportunity to live a life of freedom and dignity.

His resistance was not enough, but the example he gave electrified every Filipino heart and soul to continue resisting to the end. Jose Abad Santos gave true meaning to the phrase "loyalty to country". In his last words to his son, he enjoined his children to live up to his name.

On this special day I, therefore, want that the youth of the land should live up to his name and emulate his example.

I know of no life more usefully and positively lived in the interest of his country, fully sharing its high and difficult moments of crisis and peril. The simplicity of his manner, the loftiness of his outlook, the discipline of his mind, the clearness of his vision, and the charity of his heart, as cultivated in a lifetime of rich, devoted service to his countrymen, explain the serenity of spirit with which he met the challenge of the supreme sacrifice in the final hour and gave it the touch of deathless victory.

Let us refresh our memory regarding the circumstances of his death. When he was taken captive by the enemy in Cebu on April 11, 1942, he was acting as Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Government. The Japanese wanted

him to cooperate, and offered him the opportunity to continue as head of his people's government under Japanese dictation. The call of public service had always had an irresistible appeal to him, not that he simply wanted to wield power and influence but that he considered public service an unavoidable duty of a good citizen. Many a time in his long career of public service he had had to give up his lucrative law practice or a high position in order to serve in another capacity which the State had demanded of him. He invariably had yielded, for he had a weakness for his people's welfare and was always their devoted servant. But not this time. He could not be a willing instrument of an alien ideology and program of conquest.

Because he refused to become a "puppet", he was executed in Malabang, Lanao, on May 7 of the same year. His steadfastness is a tale of devotion to duty, courage, and heroism that will bear repeating to our posterity. It sustains the tradition of our greatest martyrs to liberty, and it will always remain an incorruptible spiritual armor against alien subjugation and slavery.

In the imminence of death, without benefit of an applauding audience, he affectionately chided his son and only friendly company: "Do not cry . . . This is a rare opportunity for me to die for our country; not everybody is given that chance."

There could not have been a greater, more impressive act of faith. Jose Abad Santos believed in the ultimate triumph of his country's cause. He believed in the potentialities of that country as the home of a free, progressive, and self-respecting people.

The faith which gloriously lighted Jose Abad Santos in death is still aflame among our people. It must continue to fire our hearts to increased consecration, effort, and sacrifice. It should fortify us against another alien way of life that is beginning to cast its grim shadow upon us and is threatening us with its servitude.

Strange as it may seem, we again hear many voices promising speedy salvation from the confusion and distress which they are helping to sow in the midst of our greatest efforts to reconstruct the country that but yesterday they delivered to the enemy. A goodly proportion of such voices will seek to disguise their inclination and intention to toy with the absolutist techniques of terrorism to bring about the promise of the kind of heaven others ostensibly realized elsewhere. We have heard similar voices before when the success of the last dream of conquest was seemingly at such full high tide. We were not deceived then, and we should not be deceived now. We can at all times check their words against their deeds.

Jose Abad Santos in his time knew of a nobler dream and a nobler promise of life for his people. Eschewing survival for his own self, he gave that dream and that promise the loyalty that he had learned from the heroes and martyrs of our early struggles for freedom and the good life. He wanted to prove, and he did, that there had been and will be Filipinos capable of loyalty to the vision of a truth that could really make men free. He was not dominated by the sheer lust for power nor enticed by the pathological pleasures and satisfactions derived from unbridled exercise of it. His country was fighting for a principle, not for temporary prerogatives. He sacrificed the latter to enthrone the former. In doing so, he gave up his life. What a noble example! Philippine history contains beautiful chapters of heroic deeds, noble achievements and martyrdoms of sons and daughters of our sturdy race, who in one epoch or another in our epic struggle for freedom, have shown the admirable character of the Filipino people. But one shining example of heroism and martyrdom that sprang from the darkness of the most unhappy and unfortunate period in our centuries of struggle and longing, redeeming all that was execrable and disgraceful to our name as a people, was Jose Abad Santos' valor and courage exhibited at two o'clock in the afternoon of May 7, 1942 in the jungle of Malabang when, calmly as Rizal did and facing the cowards serene and unperturbed, he smilingly met death to give a worthy legacy to a worthy people.

Yes, this is our dynamic inheritance. But as any other inheritance, it may be dissipated or misused. Already, loyalty to our country is being flippantly invoked; and, assuming the trappings of public interest, claiming the welfare of the masses as exclusive personal prerogative or promising redress to the suffering of the so-called downtrodden, many a scoundrel would perpetrate the most heinous crimes of murder and robbery with the cynical complacency and approval of those who would draw political strength from such dastardly acts. They mistake loyalty to the Constitution and laws of the country, loyalty to society, and loyalty to their own brethren and benefactors for

personal loyalty to a group of men in power whom they hate for not allowing them to continue committing their depredations. And what is worse, in their avowed loyalty to a foreign principle, they forget that they are Filipinos and only remember that foreign promptings are justified in so far as they promote their violent bid for power. Thus, the security of the State, the security of their own people, their own security, are exposed in the name of misplaced loyalty to an alien doctrine. Nor are they guided by any principle at all, except the primitive principle of survival in the life of the jungle.

My fellow countrymen, the inheritance that Jose Abad Santos left us is the inheritance for the good life,—the inheritance of peace, the inheritance of dignity, the inheritance of love of country, the inheritance of love of our fellowmen. To die for the country as he did is the hallmark of the truly noble soul. Let us at this hour grasp all the meaning and worth of that inheritance. And may the youth of the land catch the spark of Jose Abad Santos' life and kindle in their soul a similar flame that will never die. This is the meaning of this special day.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1949). *The new Philippine ideology*. Manila : Bureau of Printing.

Brief Remarks of President Quirino before taking off for the United States

**Brief Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before taking off for the United States**

[Delivered at the Manila International Airport, August 6, 1949]

I wish to thank you all for seeing me off. I am going to Washington officially as President of the Philippines. I shall be received there in that capacity. The name Elpidio Quirino is only incidental to the official title. I have a delicate mission to perform. Its significance and importance to the welfare and stability of our country and people and to the relations between the Philippines and the United States are far-reaching. I must make it plain that I am not going there merely to ask or beg. In honor and dignity as befits our sovereign status, I will, as your spokesman, convey your message of good will and gratitude to the American people.

There are many spiritual and moral ties that bind us to America. It is necessary that we cultivate them. This is part of my mission. This is not a political junket. At this juncture in our history, it is imperative that your President should make the trip. While I am away, may I plead to all and sundry to hold your peace and maintain your serenity and calm. Please do not rock the boat while I am away. Above all, I wish you all to forget that I am a candidate. You can say what you please on that score when I come back. I will give everyone an opportunity to lambast me when I come back.

I ask you to leave aside for the moment our partisan political differences and help me concentrate on the interest of our country while abroad. I rely on the high minded loyalty and devotion of every Filipino, to his homeland and people, to cooperate and to wish success to our mission. If you cannot pray for my personal safety, please pray at least for the safety of our national interests, which I carry deep in my heart.

God keep our people.

Until we meet again, *Mabuhay!*

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). President Quirino's brief remarks at the Manila International Airport, at 9:30 a. m., August 6, 1949, shortly before taking off for the United States. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(8), 3253-3254.

Response of President Quirino to President Truman's welcome message

**Response
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To President Truman's welcome message**

[Delivered in Washington, August 8, 1949]

I am very grateful for your gracious invitation to visit briefly with you as head of this great and noble nation.

It is a rare privilege to be accorded this distinguished reception. I am overwhelmed by the high honor.

It can only be justified by the esteem in which you regard the country whose independence and sovereignty you yourself proclaimed.

I am the unworthy recipient of that manifestation. I know that I am going to enjoy once again the fullness of hospitality for which the American people are justly noted.

There are, as you lately indicated, a number of matters of common and continuing interest to our two peoples.

It encourages us in the Philippines beyond measure that you should affirm America's continued solicitude by providing us a special occasion to review them. May you so that we may thereby strengthen the common basis of friendly understanding and collaboration which have always characterized the relations between your people and mine.

I realize that immediate problems of even greater magnitude press upon your attention.

It is the most reassuring indication of your sincere appreciation of what my country can contribute, however modestly, to the progress, peace and happiness of our two countries and perhaps of the world as a whole that you should pause and afford the Philippines an opportunity to discuss with you matters that vitally affect our peoples at home and abroad.

I wish to thank you again, Mr. President, for your very kind welcome.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1949). Response of President Quirino to President Truman's welcome message. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(8), 3254-3255.

Text from stenographic notes of President Quirino's speech

**Text from Stenographic Notes
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
From his speech upon his arrival at the Manila International Airport**

[Released on August 18, 1949]

MR. TOASTMASTER, MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AND FRIENDS :

I am most appreciative of this touching welcome. Only the soul, with its bottomless depth, can express my feeling of gratitude at this moment.

When twelve days ago I took off from this airport, I received the encouragement of a big group of friends and sympathizers Whose well-wishing strengthened my spirit during all my activities in furtherance of my mission to Washington.

Today, as I contemplate a greater congregation at the airport to receive me from that mission, I cannot but feel the immense satisfaction that my mission must have been successful. [*Applause.*] I honestly believe, my friends, that it has been.

This is not merely a manifestation of the generosity of my people, considering that we cannot have much of that in these moments of keen political rivalry pervading the atmosphere of every nook and corner of our land.

But I like to think that there is more of generosity than indorsement of my mission, in order to avoid any difference of opinion that may mar this extraordinary enthusiasm exhibited before me this afternoon.

With the tremendously gruelling and grilling experience that severely put to test my physical resistance as well as sustaining intelligence during all the course of my none too short but all too crowded schedule abroad, I am sure that the honest-thinking fellow countrymen would call my trip to the United States anything but a junket.

God knows that I have not had a single moment of personal pleasure, except the pleasure of accomplishing my delicate task in all earnestness and conscientiousness.

And I want to tell you, my friends, that the greatest satisfaction, the greatest consolation in my life is that, however modestly and humbly, I have been able to contribute during this trip to the enhancement of the respect and high regard of the United States of America for the Philippines and our people, and for that matter the world as well. [*Applause.*]

The material things in the relations of peoples and nations today are only secondary.

They can be expended and wasted. More often, they are not even worth fighting for.

But, certainly, you cannot put a peso sign to the wealth of friendship, of goodwill, of understanding and respect that one nation has for another—for these are the fountain sources of power and influence in international relations.

I have not gone out of our country to make any conquest. I am not returning as a hero, but I come home to you proud that I have been able to bring all these things to you, thanks to the invitation of President Truman, whose deep interest in the welfare, happiness and security of our people should be deeply imbedded in every Filipino heart and soul. [*Applause.*]

As I said when I left the country twelve days ago, I did not go to the United States to ask or beg for what I consider we are not entitled to.

But there are many important matters born out of our legal, traditional and moral relations with America which affect not only our common interests but our own future course which needed to be defined and clarified.

I am happy that I have been able to place our cards on the table, faces up, in the discussion of these matters with the Washington authorities. At this juncture, may I pause to express my gratitude for the cooperation of our newfound friend, Ambassador Cowen [*Long applause*] who, at my behest, remained in Washington to await my arrival and to prepare the ground for an intelligent discussion of matters of common concern to the United States and the Philippines. And I want to express also on this occasion, my deep appreciation of Ambassador Elizalde's cooperation in this regard. Without these two gentlemen, Ambassador Cowen, and Ambassador Elizalde, I can say that the ground would not have been duly prepared and the whole Washington—and the whole American people for that matter— would not have been as generous and responsive as they have been to me and to our people during my short stay in the United States. [*Long applause.*]

When the cares of this trip shall have permitted me to make a detailed report of the accomplishments of my mission, under an atmosphere much cooler and more propitious than this one, I shall be happy to recount my experiences for the information of our people.

Suffice it to say at this moment that I am really happy and thoroughly satisfied, for the Philippines has merited the distinction, the honor and the esteem of the United States Government and people.

Once again, America has spoken and acted nobly. We were extended what observers described as the greatest honor that so far has been extended to any head of state that visited America up to now. [*Long applause.*] This alone should make our people proud—we have established a new Republic, and that Republic is not only esteemed in America but respected in every way.

I am happy to note that nothing untoward happened in our country during my absence. My only regret is, that we have lost one of the ablest, although most controversial, members of the Supreme Court with the demise of our great friend, the late Justice Perfecto.

God bless him and God bless our country. May we all survive! *Mabuhay kayong lahat!*

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). Text from stenographic notes of the President's speech upon his arrival at the Manila International Airport at 4:00 p. m., August 18, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(8), 3272-3274.

Eleventh Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Eleventh Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Delivered from Dipolog, Zamboanga, September 15, 1949]

On this same day a month ago I addressed you 9,000 miles away from across the sea, from San Francisco, California. Somewhat weary of limb but exceedingly refreshed and enriched in spirit, I then reported to you that our people had never been closer to the heart of the most free and most generous nation on earth.

I reported that fact out of the fullness of an unforgettable historic week's crowded experience with American hospitality, sympathy and goodwill. I had never been more convinced that in America we have a true friend, that her solicitude for the freedom and security and happiness of our country constitutes our greatest inspiration and encouragement in our unprecedented adventure in independence and freedom as a young Republic.

Today, out here in Mindanao, as I do this customary monthly chat in the midst of our enormous potentialities, I am all the more greatly impressed with the brilliant prospect of our national, economic development because of a new courage and confidence bred and generated by the friendship and goodwill of the greatest democracy of our and any other age.

I find it fortuitous that as the hour of political decision approaches, I should be in Mindanao to be forcefully reminded and to remind our people that we have it in us to decide and determine in a matter of weeks whether the plan and prospect of development can find increasing realization in the next critical few years, or whether it shall remain an idle dream as the price of a single man's bid for personal vindication.

From the lonely but immeasurably rich spaces of this southern land it is opportune to remind our people of our greatest challenge and opportunity for self-help as the basis of our lasting contentment and security as a people.

This is the one time perhaps, in our history, when in affirming our sovereign will through the tried processes of a free democracy, Mindanao and what it represents towards the enrichment and preservation of our cherished institutions, must of necessity loom in the background of our consciousness, to give the force of destiny to our coming decision.

We are faced no longer by a theory but a definite, challenging program of nation-building. Mindanao is the challenge, the call, not to split fine-spun definitions but to utilize the available materials for a meaningful and free existence out of the resources that a merciful and lavish Providence has given us. The question of who should provide the leadership to inspire full-hearted and loyal support and cooperation acquires importance only according as it is understood that the urgent question is the fulfillment of a definite economic program to raise our people's living standards, and not the formulation, however ingenious, of a complicated dialectic merely to impress with one's familiarity with ancient mystic witchcraft.

This is the crucial question of this crucial year. The entire world is watching us. We must decide whether we are ready to develop our natural resources before we forfeit them to some aggressive and ruthless neighbor. We must categorically affirm whether we are for freedom and a democratic order however imperfect, or for the doctrinaire promises of a more sinister slave system that makes no provision for the dignity of the human person beyond its total liquidation.

The issue is between the plow that turns the virgin earth to produce an infinitude of ears of corn, and the pen dipped in the equivocations and dishonesties of spiritual presumption and pride. The issue is between creative economics

and a sterile self-styled intellectualism that rests its hope on the absolutism and authority of a ruthless theory and practice repugnant to our Christian and democratic traditions.

After our long painful experience as a struggling nation, I am confident that our people now know what friends to keep, what doctrines to follow, and what institutions to cherish and defend. God and our heroic past are on our side, and we can and will ride any storms ahead.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1949). The President's Eleventh Monthly Radio Chat delivered from Dipolog, Zamboanga, September 15, 1949. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 45(9), 3780-3781.

Speech of Vice-President Fernando Lopez before the Manila Police Department, January 12, 1950

**Speech
of
Honorable Fernando Lopez
Vice-President of the Philippines
Before the Manila Police Department**

[Delivered on January 12, 1950]

It is a great pleasure to be accorded this opportunity of addressing the Manila Police Department and in congratulating the police officials who have just been decorated for merit in service and devotion to their duties. I am also taking advantage of this occasion to extend my personal appreciation to the Head of the Manila Police Department, Col. Eduardo Quintos, who is today accomplishing his second year in office with a remarkable record that the public could be proud of. My friends, in accepting this invitation to address Manila's finest this afternoon, I am more prompted by my earnest desire to assist in keeping up the morale of the City police, in the face of the prevailing situation in the metropolis brought about by abnormal episode of the last war. True it is, that criticisms have been aired from some quarters about the police organization in Manila, but I am sure that those critics are motivated by their honest desire to improve the efficiency of our police force on the high plane of constructive and unselfish cooperations. And certainly those constructive criticisms are not aimed at the police organization as a unit, but a few erring individual police officials and policemen.

Members of the Manila police, I am truly conscious of the obstacles and difficulties facing the members of your force, specially as an aftermath of the last war. Handicapped by many barriers and obstacles, and by the small salary that you receive, nevertheless, you deserve the commendation of the public because as a force and as an organization, you have displayed and manifested the true spirit of service to the Manila community, despite the innumerable factors that make the metropolis today the hot-bed of conflicting elements. You have maintained the general peace and order in this busy and over-populated city in the midst of an almost abnormal situation. I am fully aware that the remuneration of the peace officers is not commensurate with the responsibilities and the risks attendant with their mission. However I also hold that firm belief that the policeman in assuming his job has pledged to dedicate his energies and patriotism to the crusade for civic service and not primarily for monetary compensation or financial advantage. Yours is a mission to work for the well-being of your fellow citizens and the community in which you live.

With your indulgence permit me to say something about the qualities that the citizenry expect of the peace officer. Authorities on police matters during the last international convention held in New York last year have approved a set of essential qualities of a good professional cop, among which are the following: He must be a diplomat and at the same time a two-fisted fighter. He must be mentally alert and upright, a two-legged reference library and information bureau when circumstances arise. He must be an all-round law-enforcing agency, a detective, a judge, and a lawyer all at the same time. He must have a steady sense of proportion whether to make an arrest or not. He must be versatility personified to survive in any subject. In uniform or in plain clothes, he must always be friendly, courteous, a good counselor and protector but at the same time holding the symbol of authority. August Vollmer, well-known authority on police administration, has set up standards of a good policeman. He said that an ideal policeman should possess the wisdom of Solomon, the courage of Daniel, the strength of Samson, the patience of Job, the leadership of Moses, the kindness of the Samaritan, the strategy of Alexander, the faith of David and the tolerance of Confucius.

The Manila City Police should be congratulated for measuring up almost to these patterns, although there are secluded individual cases of misfits, inefficiency, bribery and other kinds of corruptions and collusions. It cannot be denied that politics had been injected to a certain degree into the police force, and that the intrusion of political influence have something to do with the standard of efficiency and integrity of our policemen. This should be done away with if we want our government in this City to succeed in the maintenance of peace and order and retain the respect of the public for our constituted authorities. Politics in the City Police Department should be slowly but firmly weeded out if we want our citizenry to have confidence in the government which should not be made part of the machinery of political partisanship and party expediency.

It is also incumbent upon the public to cooperate with the police authorities because no law-abiding citizen even if he pays his taxes accordingly could say that he is not morally bound to cooperate with the authorities or legally exempt himself from compliance with the regular obligations imposed on all citizens. If a well-to-do or corrupt citizen successfully bribes a police officer, he is just as guilty before the eyes of the public as the policeman he has bribed. Generally, a police officer who has sworn to do his duty, if left alone, is honest and sincere in the performance of his corresponding duties. But when he is invariably tempted by unscrupulous individuals, he opens his eyes and falls into the tempting offers of easy gain measuring the risk he will make with the needs of his hungry dependents at home. In order to erase this unsavory atmosphere in individual cases, the example of honesty, integrity and efficiency in the Police Department should be made by the higher officials in the force. You cannot expect the needy and low-salaried policeman to be upright and honest when the better paid peace officers do not give the examples of morality and integrity to keep up the morale of their subordinates. The general public is also called upon to cooperate with the peace officers instead of breaking down their morale and sturdiness.

Time was when police corruption was considered a disease spreading not only within the City of Manila but to some other important cities and municipalities in the islands. It is to be favorably commended that such disease has been cured at its inception and today we find in Manila a strong organization despite some secluded cases of flagrant corruption and collusion, which may be singled out as insignificant little hills on a vastly smooth plain. The medals and awards which have just been decorated on the members of this organization are fitting tokens of tribute to a service well rendered. Let this important occasion be an inspiration for the entire police institution in Manila to endear and follow. It is gratifying to note that despite the inroads of many disrupting factors, the Manila's Finest stands as one of the best in the Far East.

It is hoped that in due time we may be able to eject the irritating factors that cause the disruptions in the smooth performance of our police system and that with the helpful cooperation of the public, we may yet have a paradigm of law-enforcing organization not only in the Far East but also throughout the whole world * * * a monumental and indestructible factor in the conservation of a clean, respectable and honest government.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Lopez, F. (1950). Speech of Vice-President Fernando Lopez before the Manila Police Department. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 46(1)*, 33-35.

Fifteenth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino to his fellow countrymen, January 15, 1950

**Fifteenth Monthly Radio Chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To his fellow countrymen**

[Broadcast from the President's room in John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, January 15, 1950]

My Dear Countrymen:

I am speaking from my bedroom at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, State of Maryland. I have never wished that I be closer to my people than at this moment. Every minute of my thought is of home and of the folks at home.

The innumerable messages of fervent wishes and prayers from friends at home and abroad for the full restoration of my health and the beautiful flowers that fill my modest hospital bedroom, touch my heart. The feeling of loyalty and affection that they convey is a veritable armor in my feeling of security.

I considered it my duty to come to the United States and seek the best medical treatment possible so that I may be physically equipped to meet my heavy responsibilities ahead. My trip has given me the opportunity to view our common domestic problems from afar. It has given me a better perspective of their relative weight and significance. I feel that what is most urgent and important at this time is for our people to have faith and confidence in our established institutions. It is my belief that the present disturbance in our neighborhood will not affect the stability of our nation, if we stand united and determined to foster and protect our integrity. We have not given cause to any nation to have evil designs in our country. We have no conflict with any nation. We have always been guided by a spirit of helpfulness to all, in the same manner that we have welcomed every assistance from friends and well-wishers. Under such circumstances, I feel and I am confident that, so long as we mind our own business in the promotion of our common welfare and in the growth and development of our country through peaceful means, we will be spared the trouble of having to defend our shores.

The apparent disequilibrium and economic and financial difficulties of the moment are but passing immediate reactions to temporary measures we have been constrained to adopt, in order to stabilize our economic and financial position. The ultimate solution of such problems being speedy and increased production, we would urge all our people, officially and privately, to concentrate all their creative energies on these problems. We must mutually develop and strengthen our faith in our future. There is more fear of economic debacle in bigger and older countries than in the Philippines today. Again we will demonstrate our capacity to adjust temporary dislocations in the economic and financial field. Concentration, foresight, confidence and determination to work harder, much harder than ever before, are our biggest assets in the solution of our present economic and financial problems. To secure all these, it is imperative that there be a moratorium in our political activities.

We have just gone through one of the most complicated political contests which have arrested the execution of our national program of action, and as the next election is still so far away, I would recommend that we do not disturb our populace with bitter political dissensions for the time being. There is no better way for you and me, and for all of us, to stay healthy and strong in the discharge of our civic and patriotic duties than to lay aside such activities or pastimes that have weakened us in the recent past in our endeavors for the stabilization of our national institutions.

Every irresponsible attempt to sow the seed of political dissension will undoubtedly weaken our effectiveness to strengthen our economic and financial structure at the time we badly need the spirit of oneness and cooperation to solve our immediate problems.

While we must be alert, vigilant and ready to resist any threat to our economic or political institutions from within as well as from without, I consider it wholly unpatriotic to divide our people in these critical moments. I, therefore, appeal that friends and foes alike in the political field should exert unselfish effort to find a common ground of action, for the welfare and happiness of our children.

I want to thank you all for your kind wishes and prayers that I recover soon. I shall not tarry in this country longer than what may be necessary for my complete restoration so that I can, with vigor and enthusiasm, continue to serve you all during the full term for which you have elected me as your President.

May God be with you always. Good night.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Fifteenth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino to his fellow countrymen. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(1), 35-37.

Address of Vice-President Fernando Lopez before the Community Chest, January 21, 1950

**Address
of
Honorable Fernando Lopez
Vice-President of the Philippines
Before the Community Chest**

[Delivered on January 21, 1950]

As I take time to pause from my official duties, I come to you today with a special obligation to perform because I believe that this movement which you have so laudably started and admirably guided is the foundation structure of good citizenry and the gospel of decent and strong government edifice. It behooves every man to make it his duty to be part of this noble crusade. As the Red Feather drive ends today, we look back to our yesterdays. We face the present realities, visualize the future and stop to measure how much of our feelings and our thoughtfulness have been tangibly expressed and translated into charity and benevolence for the good of community and humanity. We ponder to count or recount not in the amount that we have given to the poor and the forgotten but in the abundance of human relations that we have augmented and moulded; not in the terms of charity we have bestowed, but fundamentally, in the standard of real service we have rendered to our communities and mankind. For the mission of the Community Chest is much more than charity. Charity is nothing else but giving to others something in terms of money or articles and other valuables. The humanitarian expedition of the Community Chest is rather the unselfish rendition of service to humanity, *gratis et amore*, compensated only by the spiritual satisfaction arising from having done a good deed to others and to society. In your crusade there is no excess, for human nature is boundless and the nobility of character that is in you is bountiful. While charity begins at home, as the saying goes, yet it should not end at home, for it is far better to give and to love beyond your homes even if you remain to be poor, rather than be rich with empty hearts within your homes.

The activities for this year of the Red Feather Institution are varied and numerous, worthy of recognition and appreciation. When struggling families going down to indigency are helped to stand on their feet and returned to society; when the poor and the underprivileged bearing patiently the burden of poverty are given not only love and affection but security to live in order to exist; when the aged and the infirm are given respiration and respect; when homes are built for the homeless and even the deaf and the blind taken care of; when the youths are provided with wholesome atmosphere and opportunities to become assets to society and the government—then you can, in conscience say, that you have not failed in your mission, that you have not failed your fellow beings, your God and humanity.

As this drive goes to a successful end today, I heartily accepted your invitation so that I could offer my personal congratulations particularly to the unselfish organizers and crusaders of the Community Chest Movement of Greater Manila, for the marked promotion in the social order they have implanted in our Filipino homes and communities. You have successfully federated and consolidated various social agencies to a common goal and to a United Fund. You have contributed not only to the sanitation, health and recreation activities of our people in Greater Manila, but in your own way, you are assisting in the educational, physical, and moral elevation of the citizenry in this infant Republic of ours.

The nineteen affiliated social agencies through which you infuse and diffuse your services, your charity and liberality, also deserves public commendation for the unselfish and untiring efforts they have shown towards the general interest and welfare of our various localities.

The Community Chest has introduced a more effective and systematic procedure in serving the best interests of the deserving classes. The hospitals with charity wards, the family agencies devoted to the protection and preservation of family life, the charitable institutions specifically established to look after the unfortunates and the downtrodden, the missionary agencies nursing women of broken morale and broken homes, the schools and other institutions fostering and promoting the education of our children and our youths are monumental human structures which will become lasting mementos to your invaluable services and sacrifices.

In this connection, I also offer my congratulations to the public for the earnest response and wholehearted spirit with which they have manifested to make the Red Feather drive this year a complete success. I hope that the more fortunate of our populace would give out more to our less fortunate brothers. The pleasures of the rich are but the products of the tears of the poor, and the happiness that one enjoys will be eventually lost by coveting for more if we do not share it with our fellow beings. The Filipino citizen by nature is endowed with a soft loving heart and carries the satisfaction of giving rather than receiving. We are conscious that life is but a probation on earth, its worth being measured in how much we are at ease with ourselves and our fellowmen. We live in this universe not as we desire but the best we can. For, every human being, even if he belongs to the lowest strata of society, possesses a certain degree of dignity and integrity which he endeavors to maintain in order to hold his place among his fellowmen, even within his class and level. Take away that pride, that honor and that dignity and you will see him slipping away from the atmosphere of respectability and uprightness to become a burden to society. To save such human being from the abyss into which he has unfortunately fallen and to restore him and his family to his proper place in society, is not only the mission of the Community Chest but the bounden responsibility of the public just as well.

One of the main concern of the Red Feather organization, for instance, is the protection of children from the pitfalls of life to which they are inevitable heirs. It is strange to what extent efforts will be exerted to save a single child's life. There was, for example, the case of a little girl who fell down a well in California last winter. The news swept across the continent and the oceans, and awakened sympathy from everyone who heard it. Efforts and means to take her out were contributed by various individuals, and it was estimated that \$50,000 had been spent before she was recovered. Yet no one spoke of the amount spent, but everyone was concerned about the happiness of her parents. Such is service to humanity, which is invaluable and indispensable. The Community Chest of Greater Manila should be highly commended for striving to serve our communities in the spirit in which that California child was saved. Let us all open our hearts and join this Red Feather drive for the sake of our today and our tomorrow.

This world-wide fraternity, which is composed of 14,000 agencies operated by civic-spirited citizens the world over has for its primary objectives the social welfare, health and education of the citizenry. We are asked to supply funds to keep it in operation from year to year. It is the most glaring monument of private enterprise operating to sustain private charities and presents a strong and formidable front against the forces of Communism disorder and unrest. It is a worthwhile project which merits the support of every individual and very institution.

Here in the Philippines, the men and women behind the Community Chest are to be congratulated for the exemplary service that they have manifested in keeping with the program and ideals of this universal organization. Civic-spirited citizens and Government officials, men and women, regardless of creed or color, have joined hands behind this movement. Our public has done its part by responding accordingly to its call. I earnestly hope that men in the government should give more attention to this human mission. After all, you can only govern the people by serving them. Everyone seems to have realized that its primary aims are really carried to the letter. In the final analysis, significantly the Community Chest motto is rightfully worded thus: "Everybody gives, everybody benefits." As the saying goes: "It is better to be of service even to the bad for the sake of those who are good, than to fail the good on account of the bad."

Ladies and gentlemen, as we close this annual Red Feather drive today, let us commence another drive tomorrow. We may now rest in satisfaction at the thought that we have given and that we too have benefited. Let us hold ourselves in readiness to cooperate with the next drive to spread charity, social justice, and human affection to all * * * to kindle and enliven the living spirit in our hearts and our souls—as testament of our goodness and kindness, of our solidarity and nobility.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Lopez, F. (1950). Address of Vice-President Fernando Lopez before the Community Chest. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(1), 37-40.

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino at the opening of the 1950 National Fund Campaign of the PNRC, February 14, 1950

**Extemporaneous Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the opening of the 1950 National Fund Campaign of the PNRC**

[Delivered at the Malacañan Palace, February 14, 1950]

Ladies and Gentlemen, and Friends:

Once again, as is customary every year, the symbol of the Red Cross, the undisputed emblem of charity, dominates the atmosphere of this palace, and for that matter of the whole nation.

As an official organization organized by law, it is not only vital to the moral support of the Chief Executive. It counts upon the official support and, if necessary, the sacrifices of the whole complement of the Government in order that its noble mission to our country may be realized. I therefore accepted the invitation of the chairman of this campaign to open the drive even if I was not sure that I may be with you this afternoon, uncertain as I was about my presence in the Philippines on this occasion. And, even if I were absent, I would have exerted the same effort to have to enjoin every citizen, every foreigner, and every inhabitant of this country to support this campaign because the Red Cross needs the necessary funds to implement its high objectives, its high mission.

Everyone has always regarded the symbol not only with gratitude but with respect and no controversy ever arises regarding its movements and activities and the accomplishments in its mission because the activities undertaken by this great humanitarian institution are but a duplicate, a replica of what is symbolized by its prototype, the Cross of Christ.

From this occasion, my friends, I shall not tarry long nor shall I employ more time for the enlightenment of our citizenry and of the people whom we call upon to contribute their utmost to the success of this drive. Everybody knows, because everybody has realized the great work the Red Cross, our own Red Cross, has accomplished during barely three or four years of its organization as our own national instrumentality to carry out the mission of the Red Cross all over the world.

I have been preaching austerity of late. But this should not apply to the Red Cross because there is no austerity in charity, in mercy, or in compassion nor in our love for our fellow men. I invite each and everyone of you to give the most that you can, especially during these days of strife and stress when our Government is in a difficult financial, economic position and there is great suffering on the part of our people in these times of emergency, whether they are victims of natural catastrophes or of adversity or the follies of man. We must be ready to give effective succor to the suffering people of this country.

I therefore believe that I am discharging one of my most noble duties as Chief Executive in asking each and everyone of you throughout the length and breadth of this land to contribute the last centavo that you have saved. If you cannot make effective your contribution in cash, I am sure the Red Cross can accept your promise to pay. Credit will be honored by this institution and I know that if you don't have the money today, tomorrow, when the import control or the exchange control or the other financial difficulties that are psychologically bothering the conscience of our people today, the effects of the so called temporary ailments, have subsided, I am very sure each and everyone of you will be able to contribute at least P10 or P20 each, or every inhabitant. I am going to make my own contribution the most that I can personally make out of my salary. I will give P1,000. *[Applause.]* Millionaires, businessmen, professionals, and even racketeers can commend this campaign. I declare open the drive for this year. Thank you. *[Applause.]*

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Remarks of President Quirino, opening the 1950 National Fund Campaign of the PNRC, February 14, 1950

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Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino, opening the 1950 National Fund Campaign of the PNRC. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(2), 410-411.

Sixteenth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino to his fellow countrymen, February 15, 1950

**Sixteenth Monthly Radio Chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To his fellow countrymen**

[Delivered on February 15, 1950]

My Fellow Countrymen:

From my sick-bed at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, I broadcast my last chat with you, It was on the eve of my operation which required confinement therein for exactly the same number of days as the late President Quezon's confinement for a similar operation fifteen years ago. Strange as it may seem, there were other coincidences in President Quezon's confinement and mine. We were operated on in the same hospital and both operations were successful. I was assigned the same room that President Quezon occupied and which henceforth the hospital administration called the "Presidential Suite."

Unlike President Quezon, however, I did not prepare my last will and testament before submitting to the operation. Unaware of the great danger, I was confident that God, heeding the prayers of my good people at home and those of friends across the seas, would pull me safely through. Besides, before I was placed under the scalpel, my surgeon, Doctor Colston, assured me that five days thereafter, I could broadcast my message on the State of the Nation to the Philippine Congress in Manila. Sure enough, three days after the operation, I was able to sit up, on the fourth day I worked on the message, and on the fifth I broadcast it from my sick-bed.

In reviewing now the various incidents from which I derived great lessons in life, I remember three events which stands out as important landmarks in my career. The first of these was my incarceration at Fort Santiago by the Japanese in 1943, from which experience I learned for the first time to appreciate fully the value of individual liberty. The second was when I lost my wife, three children and several members of my family during the battle for the liberation of Manila in 1945, as a consequence of which the lesson of submission to God's will and the healing power of the Lord's name was brought home to me. The third was when I experienced the gravest personal crisis in my life and barely escaped death in submitting myself to the operation at the Johns Hopkins hospital, which last event taught me how precious life is and how important that it be dedicated to great and worthwhile ends.

Incidents such as these in the life of man have their counterparts in the life of a nation. We who, as a people, have struggled long and hard for liberty, never fully knew how precious this boon is until we passed through the long night of the Japanese occupation and had to fight for our very existence as a nation. Peoples, like individuals, learn to value more and to enjoy better the fruits of their sacrifices only after going through a series of national tragedies. When they emerge triumphant over these tragedies, they become more confident of their future because of the trying experiences they have undergone.

Similarly, in a period of peaceful reconstruction, we cannot expect the road to be always smooth and pleasant. The road is often dark, bumpy and even perilous. Many a time it entails suffering and demands the sacrifice of many lives. The restrictive measures we have had to employ in order to stabilize our economy, such as the import control, the exchange control and other measures which are calculated to strengthen our ailing economy, are some of the sacrifices we have to undergo before the salutary effects of our reconstruction program can be properly evaluated. It takes time, of course, to appreciate and enjoy the beneficial results of such measures. But the life of a nation is not measured in terms of days, months, or even years. It is measured by generations and even by centuries. Our young Republic cannot be an exception to the laws governing the birth and growth of a national society. We must prepare ourselves for the difficult problems that are common to all peoples in the period of growing pains. Patriotism imposes upon us the obligation to be patient and determined, if we are to realize our mission of establishing sound and enduring democratic institutions in our country.

The most trying period in our peacetime national history has just set in. We have summoned the last resources of our national sinew, genius and vision to meet the tremendous difficulties ahead. This is no time to waste our precious moments in complaining, moaning, or even groaning against or under apparently insuperable odds. Such attitudes cannot help to advance our constructive efforts to make secure our national existence. In a period of reconstruction such as the present, when men throughout the world are working hard not only to recover from the great devastation brought by the last war, but to rise anew and build better than before in the face of possibility more serious situations in the future, it is necessary that we as a people, each and all, pool our individual efforts and together harness our collective strength to the tasks of reconstruction and development.

I therefore enjoin you all to get busy, to sharpen your minds and fortify your souls as you bend your muscles to the one task which is more important than any other—the task of production and yet more production. We are racing with time, and we cannot afford to dilly-dally. Inertia, stagnation, discouragement and lack of confidence in our future are our greatest enemies. We must drive them away from our homes, from our farms, from our factories, from the fair face of this land of ours. The responsibilities of this generation, of this administration, of us all individually and collectively, are much too serious to be taken lightly. I urge each and every inhabitant of this country to work harder in the common interest to stand up valiantly together in the face of the odds that confront this nation. In this way, we shall succeed in our present endeavors, even as we have always succeeded in the preceding stages of our national development. We must rule out failure as an alternative.

My Countrymen: I have never been more encouraged in guiding the course of this nation than after my last trip to the United States, where I could see from afar, objectively from a detached vantage-point, our national problems in their varied aspects and proper perspective. I had a splendid occasion to discuss with the powers-that-be in Washington the matter of our special relationship with the United States, the great country with whose destiny ours is so closely linked.

I consider it a rare opportunity to have been able to discuss with President Truman various matters relating to our economic and political, and even military security, and I am happy to report that America is still our great friend and ally, that she is proud of our achievements, that she has confidence in our continued existence as a free and prosperous nation. But we cannot, and we shall never, depend solely on the good wishes of our friends and benefactors. Our future—our destiny—is in our hands to make. To safeguard and advance it we must labor hard, fight hard, and be ready and willing to undergo any sacrifices. There is no reason why a self-relying and self-respecting nation like ours should fail in its mission, considering the abundant resources in material, intellect and vision that this country possesses.

Various agencies of the United States Government—economic and financial missions sent by world banking and financial institutions, congressional, committees and special investigators, who have made a general survey of conditions in the Philippines—all are of the same opinion that, basically, the economy of this country is strong and sound. On the other hand, we have the assurance that we would not be alone in this part of the globe should any threat endanger our democratic institutions or our national security. Under these circumstances, my friends, why should not you and I have faith and confidence in our future?

I recall to you our recent wartime experiences as a conquered and oppressed people only to convince you and the whole world that no sacrifices which we may be called upon to make today and tomorrow can be half as severe as those we endured during the Japanese occupation. Our nation survived, thank God, under a system which crippled our productive energies, completely cut off our imports and enabled the enemy to loot wantonly our resources and to confiscate for their own use a substantial part of our production. Some will say that we made these sacrifices under the iron necessities of war and for the sake of the supreme ideal of liberty, but I say to you that the peacetime measures which we have taken are necessitated no less by the iron law of survival and by the need of preserving freedom and democracy in our land.

My fellow countrymen, let us draw fresh hope and optimism from the favorable position in which we stand in comparison with the other nations of the world, new or old. My last words to you, therefore, at this moment are: optimism and confidence, work and endurance. And as they say in Spanish, “A mal tiempo buena cara.”

I thank you. *Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library*

Quirino, E. (1950). Sixteenth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino to his fellow countrymen. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 46(2)*, 412-415.

Seventeenth Radio Chat of President Quirino

Seventeenth Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Delivered at the Guest House, March 15, 1950]

My Fellow Countrymen:

I am addressing you this time from the mountain city of Baguio. It really does not matter where my voice comes from in order to reach the farthest corners of the Archipelago. The main thing is that I must reach you in an effort to acquaint you with present world conditions and our position relative to them.

Since we became independent in 1946, we have given the closest attention to our obligations as member of the international community. We have tried hard to achieve recognition for our Republic in this field and I think we have succeeded in our efforts. It may truthfully be said that, in the eyes of the civilized countries today, including the most powerful, the Philippines has won a respected place in the concert of free and sovereign states.

Our country is in the midst of a region which at this moment has become the focal point of international tension. During the last three decades following the first world war, the peoples of the world have been constantly besieged by the fear of war. Though the center of the conflict and fury was quite far from our region in the beginning, it kept advancing upon us steadily like a prairie fire, until we became involved in the conflagration of the second world war which devastated our country. We were caught practically unaware, and we underwent such suffering as we had never before experienced in our centuries of struggle for liberty. This explains why it is only in recent years that we have become seriously concerned about our stability and more conscious of our own responsibility for the maintenance of peace. Danger has come close again, our own national security is threatened, and our capacity for survival is being put to a severe test.

We now realize that we have a role to play in the prevention of war, principally because our region has become the new theatre of possible conflict. Asia is in the throes of political convulsion and our country lies close, very close indeed, to the center of disturbance. We find ourselves at the crossfire of embattled ideologies. Because we have chosen democracy as our way of life, our country has become a natural bridge between the east and the west as well as a vital outpost of freedom in the populous hinterland of Asia.

In our desire to play our role well, we conceived the idea of total economic mobilization, convinced that only thus can we secure for our people a life of substance and contentment that would raise living standards beyond reach of those who capitalize on human misery and suffering to further ends inimical to our chosen way of life. Our economic and security problems are not peculiar to us. We share them with all our neighbors. During the last three months, several measures have been taken to solve these problems. Late last year, under the inspiration of President Truman's Point 4, the United Nations approved a program of technical assistance for underdeveloped areas. This would enable many countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America to benefit from the technical know-how of the more advanced countries and assist them in raising their standard of living. By methods of self-help and mutual help, these countries are expected to save themselves in time from the menace of subversive ideas. Studies are being made of a plan to constitute the Philippines into a demonstration area for this program, as envisaged by President Truman. Our country may thus be used as testing-ground for the effectiveness of economic measures to strengthen these nations against social threats from without.

On the political level, the members of the British Commonwealth recently met in Ceylon to thresh out problems of common concern. Soon afterwards, representatives of the State Department and American diplomatic envoys in Southeast Asia held secret meetings in Bangkok to re-examine United States policy in the face of the changed and changing political situation in the region. At the same time, the United States joint chiefs of staff met with General MacArthur in Tokyo presumably to review the whole strategic situation in the western Pacific as a result of the

debacle in China. It is apparent that there is now taking place a careful readjustment of the objectives of United States diplomacy and military strategy in our part of the world. Furthermore, we observed that every attempt is being made to harmonize the American and the British views on the critical situation in Southeast Asia, in order that a program of common action may be undertaken to resolve it.

We are, I wish to repeat, a vital factor in this program of planning and action. On this subject I need say no more than to assure you that our Government is fully, awake to its responsibilities. Careful preparations are being made to insure our cooperation in any move that may be taken, consistent with the means at our disposal, our existing obligations and our national interests. At the same time, everything humanly possible is being done not only to strengthen our national security but also to promote friendly relations between ourselves and other countries.

I have reviewed recent development in foreign affairs which are of direct concern to us in order to set at rest any misgivings which you may have on this score. It is proper that our people should give careful thought to this aspect of our program of national action, for no problem can be of greater concern to you than our survival as a free nation secure within its boundaries. Yet, in a certain sense, the subject of foreign affairs is somewhat removed from the immediate interest of the individual citizen. Therefore, I would like to speak to you on the problem of war and security from a more intimate angle.

You hear a lot of talk nowadays about the danger of a new war with atomic bombs, hydrogen bombs and other weapons of mass extermination. You are reminded of the dangerous position we would occupy in the event of such a conflict. You hear also of the menace of a Communist invasion from across the seas.

While many question their existence as real or imminent dangers, we must, of course, recognize them. Having recognized them, our next duty is to cooperate with other nations to prevent them. This we are doing within the limits of our capacity. But there is a field close at hand on which we all can work. There are certain things we all can do, every citizen doing the job that is nearest to him.

While I invite you to cast your eyes beyond our border, I must also ask you to fix your eyes within. By "within" I mean not only within our national border and in our respective communities but also in our homes and within our hearts. More perilous than any war outside is the war which we must wage within ourselves. More decisive than any battle with an invading enemy is the battle that we must fight against the evil within ourselves.

For, of what use is the struggle we shall wage against the outside foe if we shall already have lost the struggle against the enemy within our hearts and minds? It will be like locking the door of the stable after the horse has been stolen. Security becomes meaningless. External defense becomes futile. We cannot save ourselves from destruction by the enemy unless, first of all, we have saved ourselves from the corrosive forces within our midst and within our souls.

Our enemies within are three: complacency, defeatism, and despair. To combat these enemies, we must bestir ourselves, morally and physically—morally, by acquiring the spiritual disciplines of civic duty and national unity, and physically, by engaging in every useful and productive enterprise in order to provide for every family food, clothing and shelter in an atmosphere of peace that inspires internal security.

My countrymen: Let us never forget the two bitter lessons which we have learned at such great cost: first, that freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us but a reward which we must win by positive effort; and second, that we should rely for our security more upon our internal defenses than upon military armaments.

Stronger, in the end, than any treaties of alliance or military armaments is the system of our internal defenses resting upon the civic consciousness of the individual citizen and the spirit of national unity which binds us together as one. With this consciousness and this spirit, our defensive measures are strengthened a hundredfold; without them, no defenses of any kind will ever be good enough to protect us from external enemies.

We must build our front-line trenches in our communities, in our homes, in our hearts. Here is where we must make our stand against the really dangerous enemies of our country and our people. If we leave this front undefended, we

are lost. For, like the “anay” the enemy bores secretly from within, a kind of spiritual “fifth column.” Once the national fibre is weakened, we are ripe for destruction.

But so long as we hold the virtues of personal integrity and love of fellowmen, nothing can harm us. We must never say, “So long as I am left alone at peace and security, my neighbors should take care of themselves,” for somehow, sometime, the danger to your next-door friend may eventually reach you—when it will be too late to defend yourself. So we must always be mindful of the welfare and security of the whole community. Never in our whole history as a nation has this civic duty become more imperative than at this stage of our development. So long as we make every Filipino home an arsenal of contentment and plenty and a citadel of peace and security, our nation is impregnable. Therefore, I say again that our strongest bulwarks against danger lie in the stout hearts of our people and in every home where dwell the spirit of loyalty and affection, and where generate a sense of civic duty and a feeling of security. Let this be our guide and motto from this day onward.

Good night.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Seventeenth Radio Chat of President Elpidio Quirino, delivered at the Guest House over nationwide hookup, March 15, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(3), 912-915.

Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Philippines that North Borneo belongs to the heirs of the Sultan of Sulu and to the ultimate sovereignty of the Republic of the Philippines, and authorizing the President to conduct negotiations for the restoration of such ownership and sovereign jurisdiction over said territory.

SECOND CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES

First Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

[H. Ct. R. No. 42]

Introduced by Congressmen Macapagal, Rasul, Escareal, Cases, Tizon, Tolentino and Lacson

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT NORTH BORNEO BELONGS TO THE HEIRS OF THE SULTAN OF SULU AND TO THE ULTIMATE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE RESTORATION OF SUCH OWNERSHIP AND SOVEREIGN JURISDICTION OVER SAID TERRITORY.²⁶

WHEREAS, on January 22, 1878, Sultan Mahomet Jamal Al Alam of Sulu, executed an agreement with two British subjects, Gustavus Baron de Overbeck and Alfred Dent, leasing and delivering to the latter the territory now known as British North Borneo for an annual rental of \$5,000;

WHEREAS, on April 22, 1903, the British North Borneo Company, which succeeded to the rights of Messrs. Overbeck and Dent, entered into another agreement with Sultan Jamalul Kiram of Sulu to include in the original lease certain is lands lying north and northeast of Borneo for an additional rental of \$300 annually;

WHEREAS, Messrs. Overbeck and Dent and their successors, including the British Government, paid religiously the total annual rental of \$5,300 for the leased territory until the year 1936;

WHEREAS, the British Government ceased to pay the annual rental in 1936 not because of repudiation of its obligation to make payment but due to a controversy as to who are the present heirs of the Sultan of Sulu entitled to receive the annuity;

WHEREAS, on July 16, 1946 the British Government annexed as a crown colony the aforesaid leased territory known as British North Borneo, thereby depriving the heirs of the Sultanate of Sulu, of ownership over the territory;

WHEREAS, the annexation of the territory as a crown colony of the United Kingdom is based mainly on the claim that the deed executed by Sultan Mahomet Jamal Alam on January 22, 1878 in favor of Messrs. Overbeck and Dent was a cession and not a lease; which claim is unfounded because the deed in fact was merely a lease whereby the Sultan of Sulu delegated his governmental powers to the lessees and granted to them the right to develop and exploit the territory, reserving to himself the ultimate sovereignty over said territory;

WHEREAS, the act of annexation made by the British Government is furthermore, based on the claim that subsequent to the deed of January 22, 1878, the Sultan of Sulu capitulated in the same year to the Crown of Spain which in turn renounced the sovereignty over North Borneo, which claim lacks merit because in the Treaty of Capitulation between the Sultan of Sulu and the King of Spain, the Sultan did not relinquish his residual sovereignty over North Borneo, as in fact, the Sultan was never really and permanently under the authority of the Crown of Spain, and, therefore, the renunciation by Spain of sovereignty over North Borneo in the Treaty of 1885 with Britain did not serve to affect the right of sovereignty, of the Sultan of Sulu over said territory;

WHEREAS, it results from the foregoing that the action of the British Government on July 16, 1946, annexing North Borneo as a crown colony is unwarranted and illegal; that the territory belongs to the heirs of the Sultanate of Sulu, who are all Filipino citizens and who have approached the authorities of the Philippine government for the protection of their rights; that subject to an adjustment of the lease rights of the British Government as the ultimate successor of the original lessees, the said territory should be restored to the ownership of said Filipino citizens and to the sovereign jurisdiction of the Republic of the Philippines whose authority said heirs recognize without qualification: *Now, therefore, be it*

Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Philippines, the Senate concurring, That it is the sense of the Congress of the Philippines that subject to the lease rights of the British Government, the territory known as the British North Borneo belongs to the heirs of the Sultanate of Sulu and falls under the ultimate sovereignty of the Republic of the Philippines; that the President of the Philippines is authorized to negotiate with the British Government or to take other suitable steps for the restoration of the ownership over the territory to the heirs of the Sultanate of Sulu and the recognition of the sovereign jurisdiction of the Philippines over the same; and that the President is requested to inform the Congress of the Philippines of such action as he may take relative hereto, and, if necessary, to recommend to this Congress such measures as may be expedient to carry out the import of this resolution.

Adopted, April 28, 1950.

Footnote:

^{26 and 28} The following resolutions, together with the Proclamation of the Sultan of Sulu and other documents not included in this publication, show that the Sultanate of Sulu and the Philippine Government have consistently asserted the proprietary rights and sovereignty of the Sultanate over North Borneo. (See also page 149.)

Source: Philippine Claim to North Borneo, Vol. I

Nineteenth Radio Chat of President Quirino

Nineteenth Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Delivered on May 15, 1950]

Fellow Countrymen:

As on every fifteenth of the month, here again I am talking directly to you from my study room at Malacañan, And it is straight talking, as members of the same family are wont to do in the face of grave problems.

There is no doubt that we are facing such problems. It is therefore no time for idle or irresponsible talk. The latter especially during the last few months has been doing our country and people considerable harm; we are, indeed, sustaining no little loss of credit and prestige abroad.

I am also mindful of what many are already saying that the matter with our country is that there is too much talk and too little constructive work. Of course, this is a complaint not confined to our borders. As for our country, however, my answer is very simple—an invitation to examine our present mode of life; to ascertain the state of our farms, our homes, our schools; to see our hospitals, our roads, our bridges, our ports; to review the status of our industries and commerce; to assess the strength of our foreign relations,—in short, an honest and conscientious appraisal of the Philippines of today—compared to four years ago.

Except in cases where talking is the only way to ease up some tense situation, people most everywhere have become and are confused, frightened and stumped by too much talking. What is not easily realized is that most everybody has a hand in it. Everybody is ready to point out what is wrong with everybody else. Seldom it is that a person starts with himself first so that he may understand the virtue of restraint in judging others. Often enough, people are loudest in judging others about words and actions that not infrequently should bother their own conscience first. And quite often too, many believe that the most important thing is to preserve and maintain the right to talk and, especially, the right, or even the duty, to talk back. If we do not watch out, all this, too, may prove a luxury we may not be permitted soon to afford. All we have to remember is the lot Czechoslovakia and the rest of these nations supposedly liberated by new masters from the East.

I think we need to modify our orientation. We cannot do without talk. Yes, it is an attribute of organized, civilized existence. Our Constitution guarantees it under certain conditions. What we might ask is that we talk because we are honestly seeking light and may be able to give some light ourselves. This calls for some humility, some forbearance, some charity. But when we talk immediately with a chip on our shoulders, we invite hostilities cold or hot right away, and we blast the prospects of understanding and cooperation before they are even started.

I want to make special reference to our national security, our foreign relations, and our economic development. I am urging all elements of our people to get together and pull together on these all important subjects. We cannot afford to be divided by mere partisan feeling or by the venom of ill-wishing which is now poisoning the mind of a great many of our well-meaning citizenry. Our instinct as a nation should be our simple guide to the stark realities of our national position.

We cannot wish away the growing truculence of the situation just beyond our borders—not to mention the major conflicts looming much more beyond. Communism's victory in China is a fact of history the effects of which are being increasingly felt in our midst. Faced with this stubborn fact, we must put our heads together or get them snatched separately. It would be scant pleasure to any inveterate, self-satisfied critic of this administration if, some day, the flood should engulf us all without our having had any opportunity to unite our hearts and raise our defenses. Under such a predicament we should fear not so much the abuse of power by the constitutional representatives of our countrymen, but the exercise of power by a foreign invader or its agents at home. Because if we should ever

have to fight again, it would be not to save any administration but to defend the way of life that we cherish and save the Republic.

It has been four years since we joined the free nations of the world. We can be proud of the record we have so far made whatever our handicaps. But we have to exert ourselves more to sustain and raise our prestige and preserve our institutions. We must be able to present a moral solidarity that can increasingly strengthen our position as a factor for world peace and cooperation. Our domestic differences which may be inevitable in a democratic system should not weaken but fortify the stand we make in our foreign relations where it is to help support freedom and order and justice, especially for small peoples in their continuing struggle for broader participation in the enjoyment of those national attributes.

Today, we share with many peoples of our part of the world, the problem of providing the lasting answer to organized unrest, chaos and fear—and that is the increasing liberation of our masses from economic deprivation. We are committed to developing such material resources as God has generously provided our country. We have evolved a program of development to this end. There is no surefire technique of doing this. We must reckon with the limitations of nature and human nature. What we have at our disposal and what we can do must be coordinated and integrated. Mistakes may be committed and must be corrected. But here again we should pull together and spend less time in pulling each other down. Without slackening in our decided efforts to establish a new national integrity, we should have more patience with each other and be willing to allow others the virtues that we would limit to our own selves.

Now, it is hardly necessary to remind you that a conference is soon to be held in Baguio, and the eyes of the world will be upon us. This will be a historic meeting. For the first time the peoples of Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific will seek common counsel on ways of cooperation to enhance the political, economic and cultural welfare of each other. The mere fact that they have agreed to meet is a decided gain and advance towards the objectives visualized under the United Nations.

As host nation to this epoch-making meeting, we should stand to derive a good deal of good from it. It gives us an opportunity to prove something of our well-known hospitality and should deepen our appreciation of the fact that we are an intimate part of a bigger community. It gives us an opportunity to show the quality of our national discipline as something worthy of the respect of our neighbors. It gives us an opportunity to learn of the problems of these neighbors that should be helpful in pooling our efforts to advance and maintain neighborly cooperation, and to facilitate our own material development as adequate answer to the appeal and resort to violence, hate and confusion at home and abroad.

And above the possible clashes of mere personalities at home, we should be able to rise and view our common problems in better perspective. In the period of peril, men have been known to forget purely personal and partisan interest to subserve the well-being of all. We are good Filipinos all and are not any less capable of self-effacement and personal sacrifice in the urgent hour of national responsibility and duty.

The difficulties incident to nature and human competition will always be with us. But they are not insurmountable, they are not insuperable. Under critical stresses, they have been overcome and they can be overcome again, and yet again, if there is enough will and goodwill among ourselves and among our neighbors.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Nineteenth Radio Chat of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, May 15, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(5), 2012-2015.

Twenty-first Radio Chat of President Quirino broadcasted to the nation

**Twenty-first Radio Chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Broadcasted to the nation**

[Delivered from Malacañan Palace, July 15, 1950]

Fellow Countrymen:

It has been a most fateful month since my last radio chat with you.

On June 25, Soviet-inspired communists of North Korea invaded the Republic of South Korea and, in effect, challenged the democratic world to make something of it. Almost immediately President Truman accepted the challenge and shot a thrill of courage and hope in all threatened Southeast Asia and the whole world. The United Nations promptly condemned the aggression as a breach of the peace, and fifty-two member nations subsequently ranged themselves through the Security Council on the side of America, by putting General MacArthur in command of the United Nations forces.

Under the shadow of all these ominous developments we celebrated the fourth anniversary of our Republic.

Meanwhile, the North Korean communist armies have successively taken Seoul, Suwon and other important South Korean points, pushing the South Korean government from one provisional capital to another. At the same time, there have been reports of Communist armies gathering in force at critical frontiers near Western Germany, Yugoslavia, Iran, Indo-China and Manchuria.

Thus within the brief space of three weeks the world has come to realize that it is faced with the grim prospect of a world catastrophe greater than it has ever known. While it is our great hope that the Philippines will not be directly involved and that we may yet be saved from being another theater of armed world conflict, the proximity and reality of a threat to our independence and national existence have ceased to be academic.

For the threat may develop from inside if we do not muster our physical and spiritual resources and coordinate our efforts in order to prepare for the direct emergency. There is immediate need of checking up on our reserves of moral power. Our fourth anniversary has sharpened our appreciation of our national heritage and reinforced our will to solidarity to preserve it. We realize that more important than our individual, our partisan, and our regional interests is the Republic itself. In the united defense of its integrity, our limitations can dissolve and our latent powers find concrete expression in strength that can be invincible. The valorous spirit has been patent all along in our historic resistance to oppression and aggression from the earliest time.

But we of this day cannot simply presume upon it. Nor should we take the blessings peculiar to our way of life for granted. And we cannot wait for the storm to break loose before we take the steps needed to ride and survive it.

Thus, we have already made preparations in many ways. A Price Control Administration has been created to watch the cost of our essential supplies and maintain them at rational levels. A Civilian Emergency Administration has been created to gear our government machinery for efficient and effective operation to safeguard the welfare of the civilian population under emergency conditions. In fact, even before the creation of these organizations, we have integrated our armed forces and have initiated a food production campaign not simply to give practice to our productive powers but really to increase our store against any day of deprivation. I, therefore, call on every citizen to watch their development and progress, to participate freely in the planning and implementation of other measures to achieve their objectives. It is most gratifying to note the wide response of our people, since the initiation of the agencies just mentioned, indicating readiness for united action.

The flow of aid pledged by the United States under our military assistance agreement with it proceeds apace. Since early this month more new arms and supplies for our armed forces have started coming in. The U. S. Military Survey Mission which has been here two days this week will help step up our preparations in relation to a broader regional defense arrangement. For our own part, we have set aside P20,000,000 and may provide more in due course to place our military arm in a better position to cope with the threat posed by alien-inspired local elements seeking through naked force to destroy our democratic system.

We have a definite stake in the Korean war. As a member of the United Nations, we have joined hands with other members to rally to the leadership of America in the effort to stop Red aggression there and thereby prevent it from engulfing us and the rest of the world. We have pledged economic and medical aid. Filipinos may volunteer to serve there under the United States armed forces.

In this venture, we must keep our feet on the ground and appreciate our limitations. Our greatest contribution is in the maintenance of our domestic tranquility. We help contain Communism in the world when we destroy its forces at home. We discharge our international obligations according as we perform our immediate responsibility within our borders.

The American economic mission now with us is looking into the realities of our country's economic problems in a helpful spirit. It is here because America wants to help our country help itself. We need this kind of assistance that challenges our best efforts, places us on our own, and fits into our pattern of self-dependence and preparedness.

The other day, when our Central Bank opened the sale of government bonds to the general public, we affirmed our faith in our capacity for self-help. Here is every private citizen's opportunity to add his mite in the continued building of our country. By buying 4 per-cent-interest government bonds in denominations as low as P20 each, every one however modest his income, from the remotest corner of this land to wherever abroad the Filipino has established a name for industry and providence and devotion to his fatherland, directly takes part in developing the country to lay the basis of common prosperity.

And we will have more opportunities of this character. I am sure that every patriotic Filipino will want to use them to advantage. For the world can not have more confidence in our capacity for self-help than we are willing and ready to allow it ourselves.

The trend and tempo of events at home and abroad require that we step up our economic development program, revising it where necessary to achieve maximum results and condition our country for the stresses of any emergency. We cannot start too early to exert that extra energy and effort to attain this end.

Our physical and material preparedness presupposes the greater need of spiritual mobilization. I repeat we must now draw upon our tremendous reserves of moral power.

We have this power in the demonstrated capacity and ability of our predecessors who successfully stood the ordeals of their time. We have this power in the heritage they left us that sets the highest store by human dignity and freedom. We have this power in the free institutions born of this heritage now flourishing in our midst. We have this power in the success of our Republic to weather its first four years against innumerable difficulties posed by its infancy and postwar prostrate condition.

Those are definite and positive spiritual forces that have made us what we are today. We should derive confidence and courage from measuring ourselves against our people's heroic tradition, against the record of our people for fortitude, resistance and sacrifice in the darkest days of the last war.

In a mood of doubt and searching examination, we may get a feeling of futility and helplessness from our awareness of the many weaknesses and limitations which afflict us, our times and our institutions. The thing best to bear in mind is that we are the product of preceding generations whose virtues along with their faults we carry, that they gave a good accounting of themselves when the tests came. Our greater opportunity, of course, is to conduct

ourselves with increasing maturity, to respond to the requirements of responsibility and discipline consistent with the added burdens that we have assumed as a free nation.

And so today, far from being paralyzed by our limitations, we should stretch our muscles and take the present as merely a point of departure for developing the moral and spiritual sinews that will be needed in the vaster struggles ahead to build a stable and free Republic. Certainly we should be proud of our antecedents as Filipinos, of our heritage as Filipinos; for it is only as good and strong and free Filipinos that we can meet (as we have met) any emergency, and contribute to the building of a free and friendly world.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Twenty-first Radio Chat of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, broadcast to the nation from Malacañan Palace, July 15, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 46(7)*, 3022-3025.

Twenty-second Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino beamed to the Filipino people, August 15, 1950

**Twenty-Second Monthly Radio Chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Beamed to the Filipino people**

[Delivered from Malacañan Palace, August 15, 1950]

My dear Fellow Countrymen:

I invite you to listen to me carefully. But don't be alarmed because I am not going to talk big. As a matter of fact, talking big is now becoming an ailment of our country. Observe the daily remarks or observations printed in the papers or heard in street corners, restaurants, cafes and even in night clubs, as well as in important offices of the government and outside of the government. The people are becoming jittery over the effects upon the whole life of the nation of remarks and reports so disproportionate to the reality of the situation which they encompass. Listen to them say, for instance, that if graft and corruption are not curbed, this government will be penniless by September 15th or will collapse not later than December 31st of this year; or that if a certain official of the government is not removed there will be no appropriation to protect the civilian population in an emergency; or that if another official's resignation is not accepted immediately, there will be no cooperation between two important departments of the government; or that if the President is not removed by impeachment, United States assistance would not be given to us. All this reminds me of the story of how the "lechon" originated in China. A house was accidentally set on fire and the owner discovered that the pig underneath was roasted. He convinced his friends that this was good to eat and concluded that the best way to prepare a "lechon" was to set fire to a house with a pig underneath. Inversely, some of our people believe that if there is a "lechon," a house must have been set on fire. Thus if one public official has become rich while in office, the whole government must have gone wrong or that if the President is removed "there will be a new set of officials who, it is easy to see" will solve our problems. It is a fantastic development, but this is the situation which some people are creating in the face of our present difficulties.

Before our mental health is seriously affected, it is necessary that we have a vacation from this strange mental attitude and take things more calmly as normal human beings would. We are taxing our intelligence too much in running into far-fetched conclusions regarding routine problems of the workaday world.

One famous scientist who visited our country as a specialist in mental health science, made the observation that our mental health in the Philippines is rated higher than that of the general European population and many other progressive countries of the world, for several reasons. Some of them are: our individual life is simple; our family life is stable; we are not as yet highly industrialized and our atmosphere is not surcharged with keen competition in the struggle for existence; our people, unlike other peoples, have not as yet been exposed to intermittent and frequent wars and do not easily get panicky at any threat of war. Certainly there is need of preserving our mental health during these days when everybody talks of a financial debacle, of the Korean war, of the Third World War, and of all the one thousand and one evils which many of us take pride in magnifying even after elections.

It appears that those who place so much store by our rights to free expression are the first to be frightened by the consequences of their license to ventilate our shortcomings. We cannot hear of, or mouth, the existence of ills in our government and society without generating panic among ourselves and our neighbors. We forget that ills are discovered and diagnosed and discussed to find the means to eliminate them and not for ourselves to be scared into paralysis, despair and death.

We should realize that there is nothing particularly cheap or easy about being independent. We did not come by our freedom cheaply, we all know that. Well, we must know that it will cost us more to stay free in brain and brawn energy, in blood and in treasure. Whoever believes that the establishment of freedom resolves all problems and responsibilities, deceives himself. As well said by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, there is now no security in this world, there is only opportunity.

But I am sure we can solve our problems, big as they are and complicated as they appear, with more calm and composure. It can be a virtue to occupy ourselves about the difficulties of our neighbors. It is a civic duty to help solve the big national problems. It is a noble gesture to stand ready to fight for other peoples' right to be free and independent. It is an inescapable obligation on our part to act collectively in the preservation of our own individual and national rights. We cannot be so selfish as to our own interests and happiness alone, denying others who knock at our door the help that we can well extend to insure their rights and happiness. But it is a good thing not to lose our sense of proportion in estimating our ability to comply with our social, civic, and patriotic obligation.

We must begin at home and discover for ourselves the realities of a home life. While we express or show sympathy for others' sufferings, we do not have to parade as the sole champions of the downtrodden's cause and cry loud to the sky in denunciation of the incapacity of the government to satisfy the poor people's demands, socially malingering as if we too were oppressed, depressed, miserable or starving when we are not. For more often than not many of those who so champion their cause are well-fed, well-housed and wealthy, or have become wealthy.

We have men of ample means in our midst who are quick to seize every chance to identify themselves as champions of the underprivileged. This they do by criticizing at every opportunity what the government is doing or is not doing. I like to see these men graduate from the purely pious fingering of their political scapularies as a means of protecting their property from violence and come down to practical projects to help elevate the object of their sympathy. Then we can sample the sincerity of their social awareness and get the inspiration we have long needed. While echoing and re-echoing what other peoples are suffering, we can take positive action in helping others to secure their normal needs, or if possible, share with them what we have to help satisfy their needs. This will have a more effective way of encouraging our fellows to stand on their own feet rather than to pull down others who are also laboring to help. Unless we are convinced that we have the monopoly of sympathy, of Christian feeling, of clearness of vision and a determination to help others, this sitting in judgment of others' conduct is a practice which has retarded our movement forward more than anything else.

If we needed national and individual discipline of a high order with which to close and strengthen our ranks in our past struggles to be prosperous and free, we need greater discipline now with which to marshal our forces in order to stay free. This discipline is not the kind imposed by a dictatorship. It must come from every individual's sense of responsibility and duty whatever his assignment in relation to his neighbors and his community.

This discipline, for those who feel called upon to lead, requires a greater sense of humility, too. This reminds me of a passage in the Holy Scripture which mentions that "Two men went up to the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and began to pray thus within himself: 'O God, I thank Thee that I am not like the rest of men, robbers, dishonest, adulterers, or even like this publican. I fast twice a week; I pray tithes of all that I possess.' But the publican, standing far off, would not so much as lift up his eyes to heaven, but kept striking his breast, saying 'O God, be merciful to me the sinner!' I tell you, this man went back to his home justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled, and he who humbles himself shall be exalted."

It is gratuitous to point out that we have come upon perilous times. For us in the Philippines who are bending every effort to attain recovery after the most destructive war we have known, the burden of staying free and building an economy favorable to the health of democracy is not anything we can just shift to somebody else's shoulder. It is not anything that can be disposed of by merely striking an attitude and making a gesture. We must consult our powers and use them for the most constructive purpose. The times demand that we prepare even as we repair, that we graduate from negative into positive action. For a good while we have been taking a kind of neurotic pleasure in flagellating ourselves, confessing to all and sundry what is wrong with us. It is time we realized what is right with us and proceed to act upon it.

In the magnitude of the difficulties that we face, there should be little enough leisure permitted to undermine our discipline with personal hates, sectional grudges or partisan suspicion. We can work to better purpose concentrating on the positive things that we must bring into being to give tranquillity to our hearts security to our homes, stamina to our resistance to new mistiques disguising the approach of a new despotism and to the naked violence that is ultimately invoked to insure its primacy in our midst.

I am heartened by the efforts of many of our younger elements in the field of civic and economic action who are trying to bring greater goodwill and understanding in our midst. I am heartened by their definite efforts to work out proposals to raise our economic productivity and bring a rational balance between the demands of rising living standard and our people's capacity to provide for them. I am heartened by the increasing thought they are giving to the economic realities of our situation and the positive approaches needed to give substance to our aspirations to peace, freedom and plenty.

The effectiveness of our troops who will fight for peace and freedom abroad rests on what we are and what we do at home, on the discipline we impose on ourselves to reduce dissension and increase understanding and cooperation, to graduate from largely negative to mainly positive thought and action, to vindicate our willingness to assume the obligations of freedom and self-respect, accepting our limitations but exerting ourselves to the limit to pay the cost.

We are in our Promised Land, but we certainly are quite a ways off the picnic grounds. We are in no period to relax and we cannot afford the luxury of despair. There is only, for us, the job of taking hold of ourselves, believing in God, and facing up to our difficulties which are our only opportunity to deserve our heritage and pass it on improved to our children.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Twenty-second monthly radio chat of His Excellency, President Elpidio Quirino, beamed to the Filipino people from Malacañan Palace on August 15, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46 (8), 3619-3623.

Texts of communications exchanged between President Truman and President Quirino concerning the forthcoming Economic Survey-Mission to the Philippines, June 8, 1950

Texts of communications exchanged between President Truman and President Quirino concerning the forthcoming Economic Survey-Mission to the Philippines:

[LETTER OF PRESIDENT TRUMAN]

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

June 1, 1950

My dear Mr. President:

I was most pleased to learn from Ambassador Cowen that on May twenty-seventh of this year you expressed to him your readiness to receive an American Economic Mission. Since your conversation with Secretary Acheson and me during your brief visit to the United States last February, the American Government has continued to take an active interest in the problems of the Philippines. As I assured you in February, we desire to give help in any feasible and practicable way. At the time of our last meeting you suggested to me the possibility of a United States Economic Survey Mission which might go to the Philippines to examine the entire economic situation, to make recommendations and to advise the Philippine Government in working out a program which the United States Government might consider in its efforts to assist the Philippines. As you will recall, I said that I was most interested in the project and that we would give it sympathetic consideration.

Subsequent to your return to Manila I had received reports that you had been debating in your own mind whether this Mission should not be a Joint Philippine-American undertaking. I am, therefore, most pleased to learn that on May twenty-seventh you told Ambassador Cowen of your readiness to accept an American Mission, because as you are aware, the United States Government is firmly convinced that an American Mission will be most conducive to mutually satisfactory results. I would under no circumstances have wanted to embarrass you in any way by sending out an American Mission if you had had any mental reservation or doubts about the question. In view of the wide public interest in the matter I do believe now that it would be desirable either to proceed with the Mission or to decide to abandon the plan for the time being.

I understand that you have already appointed a group of Philippines citizens to study the present Philippine economic situation. The United States Government would, of course, hope and expect to receive the fullest cooperation of all Filipinos who are concerned about the problems of their country, and particularly of any group especially designated by you for this purpose. Without such cooperation no American Mission, of course, could be expected to produce a program and suggestions which would be helpful to the Philippines or susceptible of consideration by the United States.

This letter, therefore, is merely a reiteration of my previously expressed willingness to proceed with the formation of such a mission if it is still desired by you. I also wish, however, to take this opportunity of assuring you that this Government has no desire or intention to insist on such a mission, or to embarrass you in connection with it. I would be most happy to have your present views on this question.

I was delighted to learn from Ambassador Cowen that you have recovered sufficiently from the effects of your recent operation to enable you to resume your difficult tasks, and I trust that your recovery will continue satisfactorily.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Harry S. Truman

His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Republic of the Philippines
Manila

[REPLY OF PRESIDENT QUIRINO]

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

June 8, 1950

My dear Mr. President:

I was happy to read the text of your letter, dated June 1, 1950, which has been transmitted to me by Ambassador Myron M. Cowen through Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Komulo in advance of the signed original.

A proper regard for the abiding interest which you, Mr. President, and your Government, have in the welfare of my country and my people moves me to express my concurrence in your proposal to form an American Economic Mission which will come to the Philippines to examine the entire economic situation, make recommendations, and advise the Philippine Government in working out a program which the United States Government might consider in its efforts to assist the Philippines.

There is scarcely and need, at this juncture, to review the course of the negotiations to afford mutual technical consultation on Philippine economic problems. Suffice it to say that the arrangement outlined in your letter is accepted by the Philippine Government on the basis of the cooperative procedure indicated therein and out of a desire to see this enterprise carried out.

I appreciate your assurance that the United States Government, and in particular, the United States Survey Mission, will seek the fullest cooperation of all Filipinos who are concerned about the problems of the country. No other group of Filipinos will be in a better position to render such cooperation than the group of experts which I have designated, and to which reference is made in your letter.

The Philippine Government is prepared to receive the United States Survey Mission at any time, and to place all necessary facilities at the disposal of the members to assist them in their work.

I am grateful to you for your kind inquiries about my health and most specially for the spirit of helpfulness which inspires your esteemed letter. I have never for a moment doubted the continued interest of the United States in the future and welfare of my country and people. Your personal interest has made it more patent. I pray that Providence may give us continued strength and well-being to discharge our grave responsibilities at this critical time.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Elpidio Quirino

His Excellency HARRY S. TRUMAN
President of the United States of America
The White House, Washington

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Directive of President Quirino addressed to all Department Heads and Heads of the Central Bank, Philippine National Bank, University of the Philippines, and the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation

**Directive
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Addressed to all Department Heads and
Heads of the Central Bank, Philippine National Bank,
University of the Philippines, and the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation**

[Delivered on June 8, 1950]

In view of the repeated denunciations of the existence of graft and corruption in the public service, I hereby enjoin you and the chiefs of units under you to take suitable and effective measures to eliminate or prevent graft and corruption in the (department concerned). Although mere rumors or gossips may not be taken as proof of graft and corruption, the persistence of a public and reasonable belief in its existence in any office should be sufficient reason to impel the head thereof to conduct such investigation as he may deem appropriate to establish or disprove the accuracy of the public belief. Consequently, I further enjoin that such investigation be conducted within a reasonable time but not later than 30 days from the receipt hereof. Upon the expiration of the thirty-day period therein fixed, you are to submit to this Office a complete report of the action taken on this matter by you and the chiefs of units under you.

I shall consider the failure to take the measures referred to as neglect of duty and as sufficient cause for separation from the service of the official concerned. The occurrence of duly proved cases of graft and corruption in that (department concerned) during or after the period herein fixed shall be deemed sufficient evidence of failure to take the measures herein enjoined to be taken and, unless it is satisfactorily shown that the occurrence of said cases is not due to his failure, shall subject the erring official to the risk of separation from the service and to the penalty which the law prescribes.

To the end that the chiefs of units under you may be duly apprised of this order, you are hereby directed immediately to transmit to them the contents hereof.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Directive of President Elpidio Quirino addressed to all Department Heads and Heads of the Central Bank, Philippine National Bank, University of the Philippines, and the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(6), 2496.

Memorandum of Agreement signed by President Quirino in behalf of the Philippine Government and ECA Administrator William C. Foster, representing Harry S. Truman, President of the United States, November 14, 1950

**Memorandum of Agreement
signed by
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
In behalf of the Philippine Government and ECA Administrator William C. Foster, representing Harry S.
Truman, President of the United States**

[Released on November 14, 1950]

President Elpidio Quirino and Honorable William C. Foster, as Representative of President Harry S. Truman, have agreed to recommend to their respective governments a program covering the nature and form of the assistance and cooperation which the Government of the United States would have to extend to the Government of the Philippines to assist the latter in the solution of age-old social and economic problems gravely aggravated by the last war, and to bring about a new Philippine era of progress and plenty.

1. It is realized that the Philippines must have greater production, a more diversified economy, and a higher family income for its industrial and agricultural laborers, all of which will greatly contribute to the enhancement of free institutions in the Philippines.

2. The President of the Philippines, highly appreciative of the proffered help on the part of the President of the United States, to bring about social and economic well-being in the Philippines, announces his determination to lead his country in the attainment of this great goal, through total economic mobilization and the bold implementation of measures that will bring about a higher degree of social justice in the Philippines.

3. The main recommendation of the report to the President of the United States by the Economic Survey Mission to the Philippines will be the basis for serious and immediate consideration by the Philippine Government in order to attain the objectives mentioned above, and may be considered a practical and sound point of departure in working out a program of social, economic, and technical assistance and cooperation.

4. To this end, and considering that time is of the essence, the Council of State shall forthwith formulate a legislative program of the following measures for prompt consideration by the Congress of the Philippines:

(a) Tax legislation of an equitable measure designed to balance the budget and build up a surplus to gradually eliminate previous deficits and at the same time to help in counteracting the inflationary trend. It is estimated that, in order to be able to take advantage fully of U. S. aid, it will be necessary to fix as an immediate goal a total of not less than ₱565,000,000 in tax revenues. It is proposed that new and increased taxes go into effect January 1, 1951.

(b) A minimum wage law for all agricultural workers as the first step towards labor and rural legislation designed to raise the level of wages, especially in agricultural areas and to improve the living conditions of agricultural and industrial workers.

(c) A bold resolution expressing the general policy of Congress to accelerate the carrying out by congressional enactment of the social reform and economic development measures recommended by the Economic Survey Mission to the Philippines.

5. The United States Government agrees, at the request of the Philippine Government expressed herewith, to furnish with the least possible delay technical assistance particularly in the field of taxation and revenue collection, social legislation and economic development, to act in an advisory capacity to the appropriate departments of agencies of the Philippine Government.

6. Both Governments will appoint their respective committees to resume the negotiations for a Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation. It is assumed that these negotiations will re-examine at the same time the provisions of the present Trade Agreement. It is realized that the Philippines needs special U. S. assistance in trade and privileges for several years.

7. Each Government will be represented in matters of social and economic assistance and cooperation by its own commission, as follows:

(a) A Philippine Council for U. S. Aid will represent the Philippine Government in its relationship with the agency selected by the United States Government (the ECA) to represent the assistance and cooperation program.

(b) The ECA will be the agency of the United States Government to collaborate with the Philippine Council for U. S. Aid. Its functions will be to advise with the Philippine Government, through the said Philippine Council, in planning the use of American social, economic and technical assistance and cooperation, and in advising and assisting the Philippine Government in carrying out the general aims and recommendations of the Economic Survey Mission to the Philippines.

8. In consideration of the determination of the Philippine government to act boldly and promptly on the major program designed to fulfill the aspirations of the Filipino people, the President of the United States intends to recommend to the United States Congress the appropriation of the necessary funds that will be required for a social, economic and technical assistance program which will require several consecutive years of substantial aid, envisioned in the report of the Economic Survey Mission at \$250,000,000.

9. It is understood that, subject to such, modification as may be agreed upon by the two countries, the operation of the ECA in the program of the Philippines will be along general lines already established by the ECA in its relationship with other sovereign states.

10. A bilateral agreement will be negotiated between the two Governments to give force and effect to the pertinent paragraphs above.

ELPIDIO QURINO
President of the Philippines

WILLIAM C. FOSTER
Representative of the President
Harry S. Truman

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Memorandum of Agreement signed by President Quirino in behalf of the Philippine Government and ECA Administrator William C. Foster, representing Harry S. Truman, President of the United States. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(11), 5411-5413.

Memorandum of Agreement signed by President Quirino in behalf of the Philippine Government and ECA Administrator William C. Foster, representing Harry S. Truman, President of the United States, November 14, 1950

**Memorandum of Agreement
signed by
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
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ELPIDIO QURINO
President of the Philippines

WILLIAM C. FOSTER
*Representative of the President
Harry S. Truman*

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Memorandum of Agreement signed by President Quirino in behalf of the Philippine Government and ECA Administrator William C. Foster, representing Harry S. Truman, President of the United States. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(11), 5411-5413.

Twenty-fifth radio chat of President Quirino to his fellow countrymen, November 15, 1950

**Twenty-fifth Radio Chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To his fellow countrymen**

[Broadcast from Vigan, Ilocos Sur, November 15, 1950]

My Beloved Countrymen:

It has been years and years since I last spent my birthday anniversary amid the scenes of my youth. On this, my sixtieth anniversary, I have come to Vigan as a pilgrim to my native hearth. After long, tedious, and soul-searching struggles which you all know I have had to grapple with during the recent years—struggles which have taxed my physical and moral endurance—it is only natural that I should long to be again with my folks at home.

I like to remember the classical story of Antaeus who, it is said, recovered his full strength every time he touched Mother Earth in his encounter with mortal enemies. There is nothing like feeling the soothing heart of one's mother to renew one's courage and faith. And here, I feel as Antaeus did in the old, old story. Amid these familiar and modest surrounding, I experience a generous measure of release from, the tyranny of circumstance and a new clarity of vision and purpose.

I know of no better occasion for humble self-rededication. A fresh surge of will and confidence dominates me as I lay what remains of my life in absolute consecration to the service of our people.

These are difficult times, indeed, for the Philippines—more difficult than what we have hitherto faced as a nation. But yesterday, our life as a people was simple and happy. And so were our neighbors. Our region was one of mystery and promise, enjoying the romance and the enchantment of a distant past and the pride of our legendary origin. We lived in peace. We lived in comparative abundance. Then the new world awakened us to a brighter day. Those who were in bondage struggled to be free. All of us wanted to be masters of our own destiny. Thus, we aroused our people from their lethargy to strive for a better and higher standard of living, for a broader horizon. We determined to live in an atmosphere of freedom in which individual right is respected, human dignity sustained, and the will of the people held supreme. No longer could we brook the rule of a tyrant or that of a foreign lord.

In the midst of a universal readjustment, we are all being drawn into the vortex of the clash of new ideologies for world supremacy. Besides being unprepared through lack of proper organization and spirit of mutual helpfulness, we have been devastated and ravaged by successive wars. Today, we are again being threatened by another global conflict far more deadly and devastating than the last Armageddon.

In our own country, while we are busily rebuilding our nation, we have to grapple with our own brothers for internal security at the same time that we have to cross the seas and help avoid the impending world catastrophe. Never in the history of our country and in the centuries of our existence as a people have we faced the problems that at present we are desperately trying to solve.

Something extraordinary must be done, some heavenly light must illumine our way and extricate our brave people from the most complicated and tremendous predicament in which we are placed. Charged with the great responsibility of leading the nation at this hour of our history, I cannot but pray for the solicitous arm of a merciful Providence to sustain me and help our people.

My beloved countrymen, at this supreme moment I look into my heart as you must look into yours, to see that the love of God finds reflection there. The freedom of our country, the security of a free world, the fulfillment of the

great dream of compassion and peace for all men everywhere, depend upon that love. Let us make sure that we have it; let us work to deserve it.

We are presently making a bold decision to fashion anew the life of our people for something more substantial for the permanent uplift of the citizenry. The moment calls for the full dedication of our highest available genius in order to meet the exceptional opportunities offered us. We have already made a decision to make democracy stay in our country. We have made it clear that whoever subverts our established republic and our democratic institutions shall be shipwrecked on the rock of our determination to be democratically free.

Thus, on this day, I invite you all to rededicate ourselves to the cause of our common people, to the cause of democracy. There is no meaning to all our gestures to be free and remain free if we do not build—each one and all, hand-in-hand and shoulder to shoulder—the firm foundations of our aspiration to share in the enjoyment of world peace, prosperity and freedom.

Let there be new courage; let there be new faith, in ourselves and in our future.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Twenty-fifth radio chat of President Quirino to his countrymen. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(11), 5413-5414.

Response of President Quirino to the speech of Argentine Minister to the Philippine Jose Bautista Salles

**Response
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the speech of Argentine Minister to the Philippine Jose Bautista Salles after the presentation of his letters
of credence**

[Delivered in Malacañan, Manila, November 24, 1950]

Mr. Minister:

Today, in accepting you as the new Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Argentina to my Government, I am happy to reaffirm the deep feeling of fraternity and of admiration which the Filipinos entertain for the magnificent country of San Martin.

We will always remember and acknowledge the enthusiasm and sincere rejoicing with which the Argentine Government and people and other Latin-American countries greeted the entry of our young Republic into the family of free nations. This gesture of good will and sympathy shown to us by our friends on the other side of the Pacific, which we appreciate, is one of the best gifts a nation, starting its independent existence, can have. We intend to preserve and merit this gesture in line with an accepted tenet in our relations with other countries.

I am pleased to note the importance which His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Argentina, attaches to his diplomatic mission in this capital city, as manifested by his promptness in sending Your Excellency here to head the mission. I deem it a happy circumstance that the selection has fallen on your distinguished person. This strengthens my confidence that the ties of friendship and understanding between our two countries will be quickly strengthened and our commercial relations considerably enhanced.

In this connection, Mr. Minister, you may count with the assurance that the Philippine Government will extend fullest cooperation in every move to foster our mutual interests and common objectives. The need for reinvigorating our close association becomes more pressing and urgent if we consider not only the delicate international situation today but also the fact that both Argentina and the Philippines are now, as before, devoted to the ideals of peace and justice among nations.

Mr. Minister: It is my pleasure and honor to extend to Your Excellency my sincerest welcome in the hope that your sojourn in the Philippines shall be enjoyable and fruitful. I beseech Your Excellency to transmit our fervent wishes to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of the Argentina, General Juan Peron, for his personal happiness and to the people of Argentina for their continued prosperity.

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Quirino, E. (1950). Response of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, to the speech of His Excellency Jose Bautista Salles, Argentine Minister to the Philippines, after he presented his letters of credence, at Malacañan, Manila, November 24, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(11), 5416-5417.

Interview granted by President Quirino

**Interview granted
by
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the Director of the Public Information Council**

[Broadcast over Radio DZFM, December 31, 1950]

(1) *Question:* This being the end of the year, Mr. President, what do you consider the major problems of the Philippines in 1950?

Answer: The two main problems were and still are, first, the precarious financial position of the Government, and second, the unsatisfactory condition of peace and order in many a countryside. The difficulties in the solution of these problems have become more serious because they have affected adversely the livelihood of the masses of our people.

(2) *Question:* What did the Government do to solve our financial problem, Mr. President? *Answer:* Well, we had to resort to import and exchange controls to stabilize our currency reserves without which our peso would have greatly depreciated. We also had to borrow no less than ₱92,000,000 from the United States in order to meet our budgetary requirements. I am hopeful that with the adoption of the tax program under consideration by Congress, we will stabilize our internal finances.

(3) *Question:* And what about our peace and order problem?

Answer: With regard to peace and order, we have redoubled our campaign against the lawless elements, lifting the morale of our soldiers and enlisting the cooperation of the population as true defenders of the right of the people. Secretary of National Defense Ramon Magsaysay has certainly furnished the desired leadership in this movement. As a result, all Huk plans for organized raids have been frustrated and everywhere government forces are in hot pursuit of local communists who are disguised as Huks. We are now in the offensive, no longer in the defensive. And with the organization of ten additional combat teams now under way, we accept to suppress the Huk menace in due time. Our people in the outlying barrios and villages will have far greater security and will be able to pursue their productive labors unhampered and unmolested.

(4) *Question:* What are your immediate objectives for the coming year, Mr. President?

Answer: My immediate objectives to see that our people are assured as early as possible of an adequate supply of at least the necessities of decent living. This means placing of essential commodities within the reach of every citizen.

Thus, our first concern is to acquire as quickly as possible enough stock of prime commodities and industrial items so as to protect our people against any and every eventuality. All the available funds of the Government will be applied to this urgent need.

(5) *Question:* Mr. President, how do you propose to implement this objective?

Answer: For the attainment of this objective we must have a satisfactory state of peace and order to enable us to release the productive resources and forces of our people. Our program for agricultural and industrial development, our land distribution and settlement program, and our price control plans now being carried out by the PRISCO all have this aim in view.

(6) *Question:* What are the prospects for the working-men who constitute the mass of our population?

Answer: We are already laying the basis for a minimum wage scale. This will apply to factory laborers and farm workers as well. At the same time, we are accelerating the establishment and expansion of key industries to create more opportunities for employment and to afford to our workingmen training for greater productivity as well as to increase their buying power. Every Filipino, no matter from where he comes, is entitled to decent wages and living. I will see to it that he gets them.

(7) *Question:* What, Mr. President, in your opinion, are the prospects for peace in 1951?

Answer: While we should not take chances, I still believe the forces of peace and decency will prove stronger and more decisive than those of power politics and Soviet intrigues. World opinion, which no nation can ignore with impunity, is definitely for peace.

(8) *Question:* In view of the present trends in world conditions, what do you think the Filipinos should do?

Answer: I would urge our people to close ranks, as I have said a thousand times before, and stand together as one to meet the challenge of the times. We must find strength and courage in unified action both to overcome internal difficulties and to safeguard ourselves against enemies from without. This, to me, is imperative and he is not a good and loyal Filipino who will not do his part. To meet the immediate threat of shortages should normal transoceanic trading stop, our people should engage more extensively in production, conserve food, and work earnestly toward self-sufficiency in essential food items. They must assume their share of the sacrifice necessary to insure orderly living as well as the orderly distribution of the limited goods of trade. They must assist the Government in keeping the flow of prime commodities as nearly normal as possible to the extent of helping remove the obstacles, which the Government alone cannot be expected to do.

(9) *Question:* In the light of increasing Communist threats in Asia, what can the Filipinos expect by way of aid from the United States?

Answer: We have the assurance of President Truman and of practically all other responsible American leaders that the Philippines will be extended all the necessary assistance to resist any possible attack on us, no matter from what direction.

Besides military assistance, we need financial aid to permit the immediate implementation of our economic development program. If we can get our program started, I am sure we shall generate sufficient momentum to set the whole nation on its course toward economic stability.

(10) *Question:* What are we doing, Mr. President, to fulfill the conditions of the Bell Report? *Answer:* My preliminary agreement with Mr. Foster embodies the program of action that would entitle us to the financial assistance envisaged in that report. We are living up to the American expectation in that regard.

The tax program now being considered by Congress is an incontrovertible proof of our desire to assure the American Government that its financial aid to us will be well used.

(11) *Question:* Can you give an approximate amount of American financial assistance required for the purpose, Mr. President?

Answer: Roughly, five hundred million pesos at this time will enable us to give the necessary impetus to initiate our economic development program which I am sure will begin to effect changes in the social and economic atmosphere in the Philippines in 1951, changes that will steadily increase and spread in the years to come.

(12) *Question:* Is not that amount already recommended under the Bell Report?

Answer: That's correct. The aid program under the Bell Report, however, is to be administered or given over a period of five years. We intend to make the time and amount flexible to suit our agreed program.

(13) *Question:* You mean that's too long, Mr. President?

Answer: Not exactly. But it would be better if we could get started right away in order to implement our present plans with the necessary amount, irrespective of the required period of execution as long as we reasonably expect results to overcome without loss of time every threat of disorder that might retard or delay our economic development.

(14) *Question:* Going to another subject, Mr. President, do you think the United Nations has been strengthened or weakened in the past year?

Answer: I am sure it has been very much strengthened.

(15) *Question:* How do you explain that, Mr. President? Some people say that the UN is engaged in nothing but debate.

Answer: Oh, the mere fact that it has been able so far to keep together all the nations of the world and is still being used for the peaceful solution of international problems, proves its efficacy and potency. In fact, without the United Nations, there might have been not a cold war but a hot atomic war by this time. It is my belief that by crystallizing public opinion on the various conflicts or issues on which the world is now divided, the UN has immensely strengthened itself.

(16) *Question:* Coming back to local problems, do you expect, Mr. President, to succeed in controlling the Huk menace in the next year?

Answer: I think the new leadership in our national defense has already accomplished remarkable progress in that direction. As I have said, during the past year, we succeeded in forestalling all movements of the Huks and other lawless elements. They are now in full retreat. A number of them are surrendering. With the streamlining of our armed forces and the addition of ten battalion combat teams, the people can be assured of greater protection from the sneak attacks of the Huks or lawless elements. We will not stop until every Huk, bandit, or lawless element will have either surrendered or been captured. By their wanton acts the Huk to be the mortal enemies of the people, and the people fully have now amply proved themselves to be mortal enemies of the people, and the people fully realize that now.

(17) *Question:* What about the common people? I supposed their attitude and sympathies would be decisive.

Answer: Certainly it is. Insofar as the common people is concerned, lies would be the attitude of I observe that they are now overwhelmingly cooperative with the Government in its effort to secure domestic tranquility. That is important. Secretary Magsaysay has certainly done an excellent job. I am sure we can expect more decisive results in the immediate future.

(18) *Question:* That's the military aspect Mr. President. What about social the Huk leaders pretend to be demanding?

Answer: Huks or no Huks, it is the duty of a democratic government to fulfill the aspirations of the people for social justice. Our Government is doing its utmost to help fulfill these aspirations within our limited means. Our greatest handicaps at present are precisely the heartless Huks. They are forcing us to devote a large part of our resources to the maintenance of the Army and all the armed forces of the Philippines. This is because the leaders of the Huk movement—which is Communist-led and inspired—are not really interested in helping the people secure their legitimate rights, but rather in creating conditions of chaos and misery, which the Communists need for the promotion of their subversive designs.

(19) *Question:* Mr. President, what is your policy towards Huks who surrender?

Answer: It is a policy of helpfulness and attraction. In the first place hospitalization is given them immediately because they are mostly sick with malaria or beri-beri contracted in the mountains and forests. Their families are notified of their surrender and immediately, through the PACSA, or my action committee on social amelioration, clothing and food are issued to them. After they have fully recovered, they are taken to Mindanao oh land settlement projects now being undertaken by the Army, for further indoctrination in the democratic way of life, I We give them land. With this program we hope to make the Huks who surrender useful and productive citizens with each a home to protect.

(20) *Question:* Can you be more specific, Mr. President, on what positive program the Government has to promote social justice?

Answer: There are many plans under way. But the most immediate is the revitalization of the Land Settlement and Development Co., otherwise known as LASEDECO, which is charged specifically with the opening up and distribution of lands in the public domain to the landless. We do not need to buy *haciendas*. Every facility within our command is being utilized to improve the productive capacity of our small farmers, who still constitute the bulk and backbone of our population. Our social amelioration committee, in immediate cooperation with the LASEDECO, is extending help in terms of seed and farm implements and even food and medicines to the needy.

(21) *Question:* In case of a world war, do you think the Huks will attempt to overthrow the Government?

Answer: Even without a world war they have already confessed this attempt, but they will not have the slightest chance. The vast majority of our people are definitely against them, not only because they are Huks or Communists, but also because of the appalling crimes they have b4en perpetrating even against innocent women and children. Banditry, however well organized, will be quelled and mercilessly liquidated.

(22) *Question:* Do you feel, Mr. President, the critical world situation justifies a moratorium on politics?

Answer: That is desirable. But politics, that is to say, the constructive kind of politics, is always necessary, under any condition on under any regime. But we should not indulge in cheap or purely partisan politics. This has long been the obstacle to our country's development. We should discard it, for it dies nobody any good except possibly the Communist who seize upon confusion and dissension to enhance their campaign against our democratic institutions and way of life.

(23) *Question:* But what has been done, Mr. President, to discourage petty politics and unify the country?

Answer: We have recently adopted a bi-partisan policy in the handling of foreign affairs as well as of important national policies touching our economic development and national security. Thank God, the Liberal Party and the Nacionalista Party found a common ground. I am glad to note that more and more of our politicians are rallying to the cause of common survival. I am sure every responsible citizen realizes now the necessity for united and concerted action. It is not only moratorium on politics that we need now but also a higher sense of public service and responsibility.

(24) *Question:* What are your plans for 1953, Mr. President?

Answer: Nothing. I am not making any plans except to save our people from unnecessary difficulties and disaster during these critical days. I hope that by the time my term expires, I shall have loyally served the people long enough to entitle me to some rest.

(25) *Question:* Going back to taxes. Mr. President, what is the Government doing to improve the efficiency of tax collection?

Answer: We are reorganizing and invigorating the whole system of tax collection and weeding out dishonest collectors. Stiffer penalties for tax evaders are being considered by the Congress. And we are adopting the “pay-as-you-earn” system effective next month.

(26) *Question:* Do you have any plans to track down tax evaders?

Answer: Yes, we are taking a tax census immediately for the purpose of exposing tax evaders. I hope they will be ashamed to read their names published in the newspaper as tax evaders. Every feasible means will be utilized to make evasion practically impossible or not worth the risk.

(27) *Question:* Mr. President, what are the prospects of getting the first installment of the ₱500,000,000 recommended by the Bell Mission in 1951?

Answer: Well, I can only hope that we shall receive it soon, and my hopes are bright. I am sure the American people know that their own interests are tied up with the fate of the Philippines. The Bell Mission itself as well as Mr. Foster, President Truman’s representative who visited us here, noted in its report how urgently we need assistance.

(28) *Question:* Shall we exert greater efforts in 1951 to attract foreign capital?

Answer: We shall certainly exert greater efforts. It has always been our policy to encourage investment of friendly foreign capital on the basis of mutuality of benefits. With our assurance to protect duly foreign capital and with the great incentive we give now, we expect to attract more foreign capital than what is actually operating in our country today.

(29) *Question:* I have taken much of your valuable time, Mr. President, but I hope you don’t mind answering one or two more questions. I am sure the people are interested in knowing from you as to what guarantees the Government can offer in the face of the present crisis, that the people will not be at the mercy of profiteers and hoarders.

Answer: The Government has launched a merciless and determined campaign against all profiteers and hoarders. They will be treated as enemies of the people. And I want to make it clear that anybody trying to profit from the miseries of the people has no place in this country. If they are aliens, they deserve to be deported and they shall be deported immediately. I have done that already with those who have been caught. The people should protect themselves from conscienceless traders by denouncing them at once to government agents and by cooperating in the enforcement of control regulations.

(30) *Question:* Don’t you think, Mr. President, there should be more austerity both in official and in social functions? In the face of the present situation, don’t you think expansive parties and social affairs should be completely banned?

Answer: Of course, they should be banned, at least minimized, but more austerity does not mean absolute banning. Excesses are always bad. But we must be human and reasonable. People once in a while need to relax in order to be relieved of their worries for their mental health. What we should do is to discourage costly or unnecessary parties as much as possible, especially among people who can not afford to give them and among public officials who should set the example. There should be no more *pasikat* in this country. Through example from the officials, we shall discourage the people from indulging in wasteful consumption. We should consume less and produce more.

(31) *Question:* Thank you very much, Mr. President. Is there anything further you want to say for our people?

Answer: Nothing for the moment. Let me take this opportunity of wishing our people a Happy and Peaceful and Bountiful New Year.

Mr. Gonzales: Thank you, Mr. President, for this interesting interview. You have been very frank and accommodating. I am sure our people will be interested to know the views you have expressed. Good night and Happy New Year.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1950). Interview granted by the President of the Philippines to the Director of the Public Information Council over Radio DZFM, December 31, 1950. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 46(12), 6017-6024.

Twenty-seventh monthly radio chat of President Quirino to his fellow countrymen

Twenty-seventh monthly radio chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines To his fellow countrymen

[Broadcast from Malacañan Palace on a nation-wide hookup, January 15, 1951]

Fellow Countrymen:

Departing from the usual tone of my radio chats, I shall not tax you with a monotonous repetition of the daily problems weighing heavily upon our shoulders. I come to you tonight addressing myself to your inner being.

Two weeks ago we started the new year with all manner of resolutions. Today, I feel impelled to call upon you to strengthen the faith and the determination that then informed our deepest wishes and most sanguine resolutions.

We have many things to do and *must do* for the moment and throughout the year, to keep our country safe from destruction. The Government is doing all it can to anticipate contingencies in the days ahead. But the best and the most that the government can and will do, will not suffice to carry us through. It cannot take the place of what every one of our people must do in self-help and in contribution to the common effort for national survival.

Because of the steady and continuing alarm to which we all are being subjected, there is a temptation to take things for granted and to be lulled into a false sense of security in the apparent absence of extra sensational developments. Or rather, because developments follow in too rapid a succession to lend themselves to extra-sensational treatment and to permit of a dramatic impact upon our consciousness, we grow insensitive to our peril and the urgency to action is lost upon us.

It is easy to be confused. So blunted have become the sensibilities of many people that they cannot recognize the existence of facts that have not touched them personally. They refuse to catch up with events. The belief grows that where nothing apparently seems to have developed as predicted, there is a chance that nothing can happen at all.

This reminds me of the sad experience in my family during the last war. We evacuated to Santa Maria, Bulacan, when the Japanese were about to enter Manila. We thought that the Japanese were going to destroy the city and ravage the population. Since they did not do it as we expected, when the Americans were about to reconquer the city we thought that the American forces, being our brothers in arms, would not destroy the city which the Japanese themselves had preserved, and we remained in the city confident that we would surely be saved. And what happened? Because of the exigencies of the war our homes were destroyed and almost all the members of my family were massacred by the Japanese.

Thus in the face of the present crisis, the popular attitude is that since it has been possible to manage muddling along during the last few weeks, the chances are that the country may muddle through. Even worse, some people who usually make good business during adversity expect to make better business and even thrive during the impending greater adversity to our people and to the whole world. They still expect to survive when everybody is threatened with annihilation, as if their fate will be of their own choosing.

I submit that this is not the way men and nations throughout the earth feel today and expect to evolve into greatness. Somewhere along the way, a people must strike out from the well-worn accustomed groove and expend more effort and will to follow something higher and more rugged to secure safety and broader vistas of fulfillment. They must graduate from instinct to intelligence and spirit.

In the past, we achieved what progress we did in liberty and well-being by force of circumstances imposed upon us. Deprived of freedom, we saw our imperative need and struggled to win it. Impoverished by oppression, we bestirred ourselves and broke the agelong shackles that stood in the way of our welfare.

We now enjoy liberty and freedom. We have our own civilization. Our new way of life has become dear to us. We cherish our established institutions. But today, all these are threatened. If we are to preserve them, if we are to move further, we must feel the compulsion of a moral duty and a higher authority, one that must develop within ourselves, that is, the small still voice of God within us. The other name for it is individual conscience.

And now we ask ourselves: How much conscience have we that operates in the performance of our responsibilities as individuals, in the pursuit of our duties and obligations as citizens of this free country?

The question is pertinent to the kind of strength we need today to save us from disintegration within and from conquest from without. It is pertinent to the morale that we need to stand our ground and keep our cherished free institutions from wanton destruction by a rising new tyranny.

We need the spirit of that conscience in the deepening crisis, in the present domestic and world situation. If we are to stand as one man to stave disaster and effect our survival, we must muster the conscience that gives support to our deepest loyalty, the conscience that alone can exercise the selfishness, the hate, the partisanship, the pettiness that divide us and weaken us for the purposes and convenience of our common enemy.

Love of country remains an empty abstraction where it finds no adequate expression among the people who inhabit it. We cannot love a country that is full of hate, full of suspicion, full of malice. We cannot profess love of country if we foment these feelings ourselves. How can you expect our boys in the icy ravines of Korea to pull together and work together in common resistance with the forces of the democratic world to the hostile forces beating at their gates, when their country is not worth loving and fighting for? What inspiration, what encouragement can we give to our soldiers now in the fields, in the mountains of Bulacan, in Laguna, in Tarlac, in Nueva Ecija, and elsewhere, exposing their lives to protect the innocent women and children and the helpless inhabitants from the forces of hate and destruction, if we abet or defend the latter in their wanton acts of cruelty and subversion?

Love of country requires solidarity. We reduce that love into incompetence and impotence where we have to maintain irreconcilable conceptions of what is good for that country. Sectional pride, partisan feeling, past bitterness constantly undermine our understanding and solidarity.

As we prepare for war of defense—and don't deceive yourselves, we *are* in actual war for internal security—we have to seek first that moral strength rooted in a developed conscience, the strength that is best expressed in the unity of the people in support of our forces. Nothing contributes more to heaviness of spirit and despair than the unending articulations of suspicion, of ill-wishing, and hatred among ourselves, the continuous cultivation of bitterness between brother and brother.

It is time we graduated from all this. It is time we took a serious pause from our careless dissipation of the moral resources which the sacrifices of preceding generations have left to us.

All our measures to make an armed defense of our land, all our efforts to stockpile prime necessities, all our attempts to anticipate the many physical hardships that attend a bitter and bloody war, can avail us nothing without a re-strengthening of our moral and spiritual sinews, without a revival of a new integrity of spirit, without a richly nourished conscience that can distinguish between the call of self and the call of neighbor, between the call of party and the call of country, between the call of ambition and the call of humanity.

Our right to liberty is not affirmed by wordy protestations of loyalty. Our capacity for liberty is not established by cynical presumption of authority or even by supremacy of superior intelligence of whoever has the biggest word, the biggest head, or the heaviest club. That right is affirmed and that capacity established by self-sacrifice and self-discipline on the part of men and women who make a point of conscience to demonstrate human dignity as the highest flowering of freedom.

In the crisis that we, in common with the rest of humanity, face today, the ultimate protection and preservation of our cherished liberty and our survival itself must depend on the quality of our spirit—of faith, love, and loyalty to our country, of self-sacrifice or selfishness and solidarity. I know of no other basis. I know as you know that we have no other answer.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Twenty-seventh monthly radio chat of President Quirino to his fellow countrymen. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(1), 92-95.

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino at the University of the Philippines Convocation

Extemporaneous Remarks of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines At the University of the Philippines Convocation

[Delivered on February 14, 1951]

THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONSTITUTION

BEFORE I left Manila, I had something in my mind to discuss with you. It was next to my heart at that moment. I now realize that I must bear my part in the convocation of the University of the Philippines. It is reminiscent of the time, two or three months ago, when I was invited to speak before a club only to receive the greatest lashing from persons who were not interested at all in the country's welfare but in my downfall.

I welcome the opportunity, however, to be able to speak to you frankly and direct to your hearts. I have observed during the last few years, especially ever since this institution was established and housed in this compound, that the University of the Philippines, supported by the government, having left the center of population where the atmosphere was daily surcharged with partisan conflict and ill-wishing, was being transformed into one that only loves the cloister for the development of the mind and for the training of our youth who will eventually receive the mantle of leadership of this country. In my observation, I am glad that I was corrected this afternoon. I was quite wrong—I thought that those days of the university were over when the students of this great institution marched and paraded around the legislative building and pausing in front of it, shouted their denunciation against the rider inserted by some calculating members of Congress who conspired to increase their own emoluments. I still remember those days when the student body of this university was converted into a sounding board for the analysis and full discussion of political theories of vital value to our national existence; those days when we discussed on the platforms in the campus of the university the advantages of Unipersonalism over Collectivism; or those days when in a very detailed, hairsplitting manner, we tried to analyze the economic independence or the quality of independence to be granted to us by the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act which divided the nation into Pros and Antis. Those were days of high political convulsion, the repercussions of which did not only shake up the people here but also other peoples across the seas.

I remember those days as having given evidence of the intellectual and moral vigor of the youth. But since then I had been observing, especially during the period of isolation of this institution in this compound, that the student body of this institution no longer exhibited those great incentives for the development of the intellectual prowess of our youth.

Today, I stand corrected. And I welcome the opportunity to discourse or chat with you, as I have no prepared speech for the occasion, on the question of the people: the President and the Constitution. The issue has been well presented and the insinuation clearly defined. I am going to face the issue. But before I go into the fundamental question as presented to me this afternoon, I want to recall that time when less than two years or perhaps more than two years ago, this great institution conferred upon me the honorary degree of doctor of laws and when I launched the new Philippine ideology which was born here, an ideology based upon national positive action, and followed up today on the broad basis of total economic mobilization.

Mobilization is the general term that you hear everywhere in the world today. There are two kinds of mobilization: mobilization for aggression and mobilization for defense. To the first belongs that group that would like to enslave our country again. To the second belong the democracies in defense of our democratic institutions and of our way of life. But our total economic mobilization is not based merely on a question of preference for aggression or mobilization for defense, because economic mobilization is one thing which must be carried out if we want to continue existing as an enduring, stable, independent sovereign nation.

You and I who have lived through the last ten years of vicissitudes have observed the great problems confronting us and affecting our individual lives. Ten years ago we were invaded. Since then our sufferings as a people began. For four years we were submitted to a process of regimentation closely under the surveillance of a new imperialism or totalitarianism that, thank God, did not develop in our land. We suffered four years of occupation, and at the end of that period, we suffered another reconquest of our land. Three times our land was converted into a battleground: first when our neighbors from the north invaded us; second, when we faced them on our own soil and, together with the American forces, fought them in every nook and corner of the archipelago; and, third, when the United States forces returned to reconquer this country.

It is hard to admit that after all the three times that our land was converted into a battleground, it has become once again a battleground. Between whom? Between and by ourselves. Those of us who should rejoice because liberty and freedom have at last been placed in our hands view with apprehension the unmeasured ambition of those who are now busily battling against the established institution in order to wrest power and wield it themselves. It is a sad spectacle, but it is sadder still if we are going to tolerate this situation because our struggle for liberty and freedom which we and our forefathers have sustained since the dawn of our history as a people will be set to naught if after achieving the liberty and freedom that we now enjoy we should lose them through fratricidal strife. We are like a family eager to construct a new house, but when the house is already finished and we are ready to occupy our respective places, after shouting in every open space, at the windows, at the doors, and even in the sala, that we are now free—"Viva la independencia"—everybody wants to be in the hall; nobody wants to be in the kitchen; nobody wants to be on the fields to make productive the agricultural farms from which we derive our sustenance; nobody likes to watch the house; nobody likes to stand guard over the ramparts of freedom that we now possess. Everybody wants to occupy a seat of power in the center of the house. And what we lived and fought for centuries and centuries to achieve is going to be destroyed because of jealousy, of unbridled ambition on the part of those who are taking dictation from a foreign power to wrest from us the liberty that we have won.

My friends, you and I have a great responsibility in this age. We have accepted the challenge to establish here a new government, a new democracy, a new country, a new idea, a new life, a new soul, perhaps a new happiness. Those who have been able to survive our recent tribulations are longing for that day when we can concentrate our mind on some constructive work, something fundamental to set this institution not only in a position of tranquillity but in the advantageous position of security from internal dissension and external aggression.

We barely have at this moment all the means that we need to produce those things which we require to maintain our normal living. Ever since we were liberated in 1945, followed by the attainment of our freedom as a nation, we had been hoping that the artificial life we led, a life of temporary prosperity given us by a noble and friendly ally, would continue for some time. We did not stop to think that, to make them lasting, we had to plant and to harvest our own security and happiness. It is strange but natural that we have been acting like a man who has just left prison. He forgets the past and remembers only his new liberty and his happiness. He squanders and dissipates and sometimes, forgetful of his future, abandons those things that make him happy, believing that the temporary condition of liberation is going to be permanent, without any responsibility and without even working for his own happiness.

Well, the time has taught us a great lesson. We have to live on borrowed means; we have to function on borrowed funds. We are being cajoled into enjoying a new life by the continuous repetition of the eternal concern of the United States of America for our future, believing that America will have all the attention for us and will give us all the means that we require for our normal functioning as a nation. Devastated, bulldozed so to speak, as we were, in 1945, we had to depend upon the meager contribution of our population to maintain our government which in that year was able to collect only P1,800,000, the very year our Commonwealth was restored.

Gradually but steadily, and conscious of our responsibility to the nation, we have been able to induce our people with proper measures to pay the corresponding taxes in accordance with each person's ability to pay, and so from then on we were able to collect more revenues from the meager income of our population. Since then our revenues rose from P1,800,000 in 1945 to P310 million in 1949. That is the evidence of our seriousness, our readiness to support the government that we established.

But, my friends, all that income was not enough. We had to rehabilitate our industries besides rehabilitating our homes, our farms, our vital enterprises, from which we derived our income before the war. We had to contribute

funds to finance institutions—the insurance companies, the banks, agricultural associations, building associations, and all those enterprises that give impetus to the financial rehabilitation of our country. Our funds for that purpose were not enough. We had to borrow money. And then we had to employ a good portion of that money as loans to the enterprises that had to be rehabilitated as it is necessary to fatten the goose that lays the golden egg. And so we spent every centavo of our normal income and some of borrowed income. We reconstructed our roads and bridges. We rebuilt our buildings. We rebuilt our schoolhouses, our irrigation systems, our hospitals and puericulture centers, to the extent that since last year we have been able to point out to a greater number of these permanent improvements than even before the war. Our road construction has been extended longer than what existed before the war. We have more bridges than before the war. We have more schoolhouses than before the war. We have more hospitals than before the war. The buildings we have reconstructed appear to be more beautiful, more comfortable, more imposing, and more modern than those that existed before the war. It may have been a blessing in disguise that we were enabled by the war to remodel our cities. Take, for instance, the City of Manila. It would have been a very difficult problem for us to expropriate all those lands that we needed to widen our streets, improve our parks, clean the city of slums, and provide the people with an atmosphere of pleasantness. The homes that we have rebuilt are even more beautiful, more comfortable, more convenient, than those before the war.

And Manila today, as you know, is so remodelled that in four or five years, you will see rise a far more beautiful Pearl of the Orient than that of yesterday. Recall how many bridges we had erected across the Pasig before the war. I think there were only three or four. Today, there are eight or nine, and they are increasing yearly. It is surprising that we should hear all these moanings and complaints and groanings of dissatisfied people who have become bitter, disillusioned, and frustrated because of their political bad luck and are picturing the country as one next to hell. You go from one country to another nowadays. You cross the Pacific; you cross the Atlantic. Go to Asia; go to Europe; go to the United States; go to those places which were not ravaged by the war, and compare with them what we have accomplished and you will be proud to observe that after all we, the Filipino people, have established a record of aggressiveness in the reconstruction of the country and have proved that our spirit, our moral fiber is incomparable in our fight for rehabilitation and survival.

And yet there is that negative attitude: continuous bickering, continuous criticism, continuous attacks coming down to this moment, to this constitutional disquisition on whether our Constitution has been trampled upon by the Chief Executive or not. Now, I come to your point, my dear friends, and I am glad you have given me this opportunity.

People are alarmed that one or two newspapermen have been maltreated by some minions of the law who are now subject to correction and punishment and whose acts can be easily corrected. That isolated case has served to outweigh the daily happenings in our respective communities. Don't go very far from the City of Manila. Just go to Tarlac, to Nueva Ecija, to Pangasinan, to Rizal, to Laguna, to Batangas, or anywhere else. You do not only read about atrocities; you see them, you hear them; you feel the people's complaints—those innocent people—the children being slain; pregnant women, innocent girls, being raped, ravaged, kidnapped, and murdered; homes burnt down; schools reduced to ashes; municipal buildings set on fire; innocent men, even patients in the hospitals butchered.

You shout to high heaven in denunciation against the conduct of some men who do not know how to proceed in accordance with the law in connection with the case of two or three newspapermen some of whom admitted their collaboration or direct participation in the rebellion that is stirring under your very noses and you forget the hundreds of innocent people who are the victims of the lust for power, the blood-thirst that goads some into inhuman fury—those misguided lawless brothers of ours who are now trying to destroy all that which we love and cherish and have fought and died for.

Constitution! Yes. When you are hungry, what do you do? You want to plant; you want to produce. You cannot use the Constitution and eat and live on it. When you are being deprived of your liberty and freedom, when your very relatives are being killed, when the people whom you wish to protect are being sacrificed on the altar of misconstrued democracy, can you use the Constitution to shield them all?

My friends, the Constitution enjoins as a first mandate and duty of every government that the defense of the State is the prime duty of government. As long as I am the head of this government, I am not going to hear this camouflaged cry for democracy, for the enjoyment of freedom, and the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*, to the sacrifice of

thousands and thousands of people who are now disappearing from the face of our country to satisfy the lust for power and to promote inhuman feelings towards our own brothers. The Constitution provides that in case of rebellion, in case of insurrection, in case of invasion or imminent danger thereof, the President can suspend the privilege of *habeas corpus* for the security of the State. Who denies now that there is a revolution in this country? Those who attended the trial of the eight men who have been taken to court as members of the politburo have read the documents, not typewritten but in the handwriting of those culprits, using the word “revolution” as their watchword. Shall I cross my hands and fold my arms in contemplation of their inhumanity out of respect for one provision of the Constitution not to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* unless necessary while our lawless elements are trying to overthrow the government before my eyes and under my very nose? Who is going to determine the necessity of utilizing that provision of the Constitution authorizing the Chief Executive to suspend the writ in case of invasion, in case of insurrection, or in case of rebellion? Who is going to be responsible for the liberty and freedom of the people—a group here, a group there, the people in the streets? The Constitution places that responsibility in the hands of the Chief Executive, and as long as I am the Chief Executive of this nation I would rather die in the gallows than permit the people to be massacred everywhere without my taking advantage of that power to stop the inhumanity of the lawless elements. (*Long applause*)

Verily, my friends, twenty or thirty years hence when many of us will be peacefully resting in our graves and our children shall have written our history, that chapter covering the period of the past two or three years, especially this year of important political struggle in our country will record that with the suspension of the *habeas corpus* I was able to avoid, prevent, or arrest at least, the activities of those who are now trying to trample the very Constitution and establish here a government that does not belong to us but to others who receive dictations from abroad. Then the people will thank me. I don't have that ambition but I just foresee. Then Quirino will no longer be the center of attack but perhaps of wonder that I was able to act without vacillation; that I was not a Hamlet in the palace of Malacañan, because I did not hesitate, and would not hesitate. My record has always been to proceed as I think I should proceed in accordance with the dictates of my conscience and the law and the Constitution. Now I rest my case. Thank you very much.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino at the 46th anniversary of Rotary International

Extemporaneous Remarks of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines At the 46th anniversary of Rotary International

[Delivered at the Palm Court, Manila Hotel, February 22, 1951]

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Friends:

Yes, I left my bundle of worries at the palace when I came to join you this evening. But the first thing I would like to dwell upon and give meaning to my presence here as the *governadorcillo* of this *barrio* is the exercise of my authority, my powers, and prerogatives which many of my ill-wishers are denying me as President of the Philippines.

I think I have the right to exercise my powers not only of punishment but also of imposing fines upon members of the Rotary Club who did not conduct themselves properly this evening. I think that power is vested in me as honorary president of this organization.

In order to impress upon you the seriousness and finality of my executive power as *governadorcillo* of this *barrio*, I will begin by imposing the punishment upon the president of this association. He began in a very serious vein. He didn't even smile when he introduced the distinguished guests here. He smiled only when he introduced the two beautiful ladies, Mrs. Moran and his wife. For being so serious and for having told you half truths, because he said his wife has only something to add to his words instead of saying his wife has always the last say, I am imposing upon him a fine of ₱20. [*Applause.*]

When I was entering the premises of the hotel, I was met at the entrance by somebody who was called the *barrio* policeman. He didn't look like a policeman; he looked like a dilapidated, defeated *guardia civil* and he abused his authority by greeting me with a smile. I impose upon him a fine of ₱10 for his misconduct. That policeman, I think, is Lou Rifkin.

As I sat down here and gazed around in order to find out whether I have some friends who would protect me at the rear, I happened to see another policeman. While I was looking at him, he approached me and noticed he had a cigar in his hand. No policeman on duty should have a cigar in his hand. For such misbehavior I impose upon him a fine of ₱10. The policeman is Certeza.

I was told this evening that I was going to crown several queens. I asked Mrs. Legarda and President Legarda how the beauty queens were elected. "Oh, they are already selected," they answered. "Selected! I thought there was an election?" "Oh, yes, they were elected." "By what process, by block voting?" I asked. "No," they said, "by dark voting." For such misconduct I impose a fine of ₱10 upon Miling Lichauco, the one who conducted the election. Now I must take out of my system something which has been bothering me since I sat down here. At first I sat on the left of Mrs. Legarda, and I saw the beautiful flowers decorating her head. Recently I have been fond of planting roses in the palace. That is my weakness now—to see, plant, and smell roses. And every time I gaze on Mrs. Legarda I see somebody is guilty of putting those flowers to shame because they can't decorate such a beautiful face as Mrs. Legarda's. For that mistake, I am going to impose a fine of ₱20, not upon her, but upon her husband.

Well, my dear friends, now that I have satiated myself in the exercise of my executive powers conferred upon me this evening by way of consolation because of the manner in which some have been trying to rob me of this authority under the Constitution, I think, I can devote a few minutes of my time to real relaxation with you. It is a good, moonlit night. When I saw the moon peeping behind the Manila Hotel, I longed for a hand to hold so that I could contemplate that beauty ecstatically, but I am sorry I have no Rotary Ann. Will you please help me get one?

This evening is certainly conducive to the peace of the soul. The decorations which were being placed here last night when it dropped in gave me the impression that we would not have beautiful surroundings this evening. But I was pleasantly surprised when I came in to see that those small *barong-barongs* are good sources of enjoyment. They are giving an excellent opportunity to many. This brings back to my mind a face which I could distinguish easily, one who has shown such fondness for eating *bibinkas* in public and in the presence of his wife. I think for such fondness for *bibinkas*, he should be fined ₱10. I refer to Mr. Benito Montilla.

Certainly, we need an occasion like this. After all these years of vicissitudes through which we have passed and after all the troubles that are now occupying our minds, our souls and our hearts, and faced with the impending danger of another war, and all the conflicts that we hear in every corner of the Archipelago today because of troubled times, I think we should have a pause to smooth out those deep grooves in our faces which are nothing but the signs of what we have been hearing during these months. My grooves, especially, are due to monetary difficulties of the Government, to local confusion, and to an impending war. I want to iron out those grooves this evening and I invite each and every one of you here as well as our friends hearing these remarks over the radio, and the general public, to manage to talk of something more pleasant, of something that will provoke more good cheer and hilarity and not to dwell on things that are serious, on grave problems that occupy our minds not only as individuals but as citizens of this country striving hard to maintain our national existence in the struggle for survival.

There are so many beautiful things in the Philippines that can be the object of our thoughts, the subject of our conversation, and even the topic of beautiful poems—not the poems that Dr. Bocobo usually dedicates to serious problems—but poems that will describe the beauty of the Ma-yon volcano, the beauty of the Pagsanjan falls, the beauty of Zamboanga, the beauty of Baguio, the beauty of our lakes, our rivers, our brooks, our mountains, in short, our surroundings, things that give us the idea that this is really a haven during these-times.

There are so many things that would attract us or distract our attention from serious problems. They could serve as topics for discussion, for ordinary conversation designed to change the mood of our people.

This country has been suffering from three centuries of struggle. We struggled hard during those days when we were still trying to unite our people; we struggled hard when national “consciousness crept into our national conscience; we struggled hard when we thought we could win our sovereign independence in the battlefield; and we struggled hard to fight the common enemy, to ward off other aggressions which came in successive waves during our struggle for liberty and freedom. We are still struggling hard and if you are going to frown upon every word, every movement, every attitude, everything that may make us feel deeply concerned about our future, there will be no time left for us to think of and enjoy the beauty of living.

Why do we need to suffer on earth? It is not true we were born just to suffer, as the Bible and the pessimist say.

This is not a valley of tears. The Creator has created mankind not to suffer but to live and take advantage of the bounties that God has bestowed on humanity. And if you are going to take literally what is always preached, that we should always suffer in this world in order to be entitled to eternal happiness above, I don't know that anybody has received any communication from beyond the tomb that there is sure happiness for all of us. There are so many sinners on earth. There are so many of us who are sinners that we cannot all expect to enjoy eternal happiness while in heaven.

So, while we are here, why not take advantage of the bounties of Heaven and see to it that we justify our existence by honoring those that God has bestowed upon us and has placed within our grasp? As a part of humanity, it is for us to advance the spirit of humanity; it is for us to improve the life of the individual; it is for us to improve the life of our nation; it is for us to improve the life of the world. With that conviction, we are going to make our time useful and fruitful.

The Rotary Club, founded for the purpose of serving other fellows as a civic organization based on good cheer, good will, friendship, and brotherhood throughout the world, interprets better our life on earth by inspiring society to live pleasantly, usefully, cooperatively. It enjoins its members to make life worth living, promote friendship and good relations, and establish the brotherhood of man. At this moment the Rotary Club is demonstrating its constructive

program. Many things can be accomplished with good intention, good cheer, and pleasant company. It is this, and principally this, which has enabled the Rotary Club to survive and prosper. The Rotary Club, composed as it is of members from every walk of life, is a veritable international organization. It is spreading the theory of internationalism in a spirit of good cheer and good will.

You may not realize it but the deeds of Rotarians today will outlive any military victory attained ever since we have known how to fight with arms and employ violence to gain advantage over our fellowmen. We need today that spirit of internationalism and as you celebrate the 46th anniversary of the founding of the Rotary Club and the 32nd anniversary of its counterpart, its chapter—when I say chapter and see Mr. Checchi I always think of counterpart, my present obsession. If you will permit me to digress, I should like to refresh your memory regarding the usual practice in *barrio fiestas*. In *barrio fiestas*, we usually erect a greased pole and place a coin on top of it so that the children may climb the pole. Whoever reaches the top gets the coin. The game is called *palo sebo*. I don't see any pole here: If we had one, I should like to demonstrate in a practical way how to reach the top under the ECA process.

We are supposed to carry with us a handkerchief full of ashes when we climb the pole. The first boy climbs his way by using the ashes, perhaps he climbs one or two meters but because his supply of ashes gets exhausted, he comes down so that another two or three will take turns to climb until the pole has been cleared of grease and the last climber, gets the coin. That is a system of cooperation on the part of the youth of each barrio for the purpose of winning the prize on top of the pole. But usually there are only four or five boys who carry the ashes.

In connection with the ECA assistance, however, we are expected to approve so many bills, so many resolutions, involving the collection of at least ₱56.5 million of income. These bills are supposed to be the bundles or handkerchiefs full of the ashes we need to reach the top of the pole. But we are weak, and we don't have so many bundles of ashes. So I would like Mr. Checchi to take this to the United States. We are ready, willing, and determined to climb the *palo sebo* in our aspiration to get the coin that is on top—the U. S. assistance under the ECA. But please don't impose upon us when we cannot reach the top of the pole. What we want is a little bit more of encouragement for our spirit, for our determination. Fortify our muscles, we can climb higher than that. And we will show that we are not going to be a failure as the counterpart of the United States in its benign policy of extending democracy to this part of the world.

Talking about the necessity of cooperation today, I am reminded that your celebration this evening coincides with Washington's birthday. This brings to our mind the days of struggle in the United States to establish its new independent government.

Shortly after the establishment of that government, we too had our own turmoil. America had had serious disputes, especially the one between Jefferson and Hamilton and all the rest of the political leaders of the day, but there is one remarkable thing about that struggle—the head of state, George Washington, was allowed to exercise his prerogatives in accordance with his sound judgment as the father of his country. And those who were disputing about the best theory, the best procedure, the best mode of approach, confined their discussions and quarrels to themselves. They never degraded, they never dishonored, they never pulled down George Washington as head of the government.

I would like to see that repeated in our country. It is true I am not a George Washington, but I want you to remember that the first President of the Republic, President Roxas, could not carry on within the four-year period of his term. His term was split into two. So he is the founder of the one-half of this Republic and I am supposed to be the founder of the other half. Whether you like it or not, I have shouldered the responsibility; and whether you like it or not, I am the co-founder of this republic and all I want is for you to give me that opportunity, to give me your sincere cooperation, so that I may be able to guide this republic to the limit of our capacities and ambition. [Applause.]

As we celebrate, therefore, the 46th anniversary of the organization of the Rotary Club, coinciding as it does With the day when George Washington was brought to the world to lead the American nation, let us derive inspiration from the high motives of the Americans who established the American republic and, coinciding as this celebration

does with the great need for international cooperation among nations, let us impress upon our mind that the basis of sensible and universal internationalism is the spirit of independence and sovereignty of each nation so that every sovereign nation may be equal in dignity, in rights, and in self-respect to any other nation. You who are members of this Rotary Club have shown that spirit of equality, of dignity, of self-respect, on the basis of which you are doing your work in the promotion of good will and good cheer and of internationalism.

Ladies and gentlemen, this being a night devoted to the Rotary Anns, I want to join the Rotarians in honoring the affair. I am not a Rotary Ann, but there is always a woman in a man's life, and I want to join you in that spirit. The woman in me joins the women—the Rotary Anns—in celebrating this day, because we know that this is the only way in which we could give the proper encouragement and inspiration to the male members so that they may succeed in their international effort in fostering the spirit of brother-hood of man and the good will, the good cheer and understanding that the world sorely needs today.

I think I can be proud of the attitude taken by the present administration, when we gave opportunity to the woman population of this country to share in the great responsibility of building this nation. For the first time in history of civil affairs in this country, this administration gave a chance to the women to sit at the Cabinet. For the first time, too, we are utilizing the services of distinguished women to help us not only in administration but in setting the proper integrity among officials by appointing in different boards women of distinction, of integrity, and of intelligence, to represent their sex in all the high functions of government. I can cite, for instance, Mrs. Lim of the Integrity Board, Mrs. Legarda of the Moving Pictures Board, and other women in other boards. I think we have placed them also in the Price Control Board; we have placed them in the Import Control Board; we have placed them in other bodies that assist the administration in carrying out its policies.

This evening being dedicated to Rotary Anns, I want to encourage those who are giving the members of this organization the proper incentive and inspiration to promote the stability of the home. I wish I could contribute my Rotary Anns, as I said, but give me time to do so; not just now.

I thank you, Mr. Legarda, for this opportunity to be with you this evening and to forget my worries; forget the worries of others at the same time; and deliver ourselves to the spirit of good cheer and relaxation. I shall not tarry longer because I am very eager to see your play and to go around guided by the spirit of the evening. Thank you very much. [*Applause.*]

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Extemporaneous remarks of His Excellency, Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, at the 46th anniversary of Rotary International, February 22, 1951, Palm Court, Manila Hotel. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(2), 634-640.

Twenty-ninth radio chat of President Quirino

Twenty-ninth radio chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Broadcast from Malacañan Palace, March 15, 1951]

Fellow Countrymen:

Like a busy woodsman who pauses to catch his breath and to contemplate his clearing after so many days of toil, I come to you this evening to review the accomplishments of our people during the last few weeks.

I say "people" because these accomplishments are not the work of the Government alone. In fact, the Government cannot do much without the people's cooperation and support in the execution of even purely official policies.

We certainly have made some progress in clearing up a considerable measure of the bad feeling and misunderstanding in our domestic atmosphere, and our work of construction and development is proceeding apace.

A new spirit pervades the air. Where once gloom and suspicion shrouded the unlighted rooms of meditation, a new ray of hope and incentive pierces to awaken and stimulate those lagging in enthusiasm, encouragement, and faith. Braving the warnings and even threats of those who would confuse and befuddle the national situation, they now come out with a new determined effort to accomplish their daily tasks. For there is assurance of increasing security and relative tranquillity that provides the proper climate for the pursuit of their constructive activities.

I am heartened a good deal by the growing realization in our midst that our many difficulties and our common peril require a reduction in recrimination and a corresponding increase in understanding and united efforts to tide us over through these critical days.

It is getting better understood that the problems of our government are the problems and concern of every citizen, and that the proper approach calls for a sense of obligation in direct proportion to the citizen's advantages and resources.

The temper of our times should set a curb to the acquisitive appetite, upon the realization that we risk to lose all that we have unless we help and cooperate to provide others the just opportunity to improve their condition. We cannot, for example, go back on our tax obligations and yet be the first to demand special privileges in what we expect our government to offer in security and opportunity to increase and hold what we have.

There has been a marked new breath of life and activity during the recent months which can be readily observed in the number of factories erected, farms opened, and industrial undertakings spread throughout the country today.

This is reflected in the latest figures indicating an increase, respectively, between 1949 and 1950, of 201 in new corporations, P143,000,000 in authorized and P11,000,000 in paid-up capital.

And while there was an over-all decline of 2.1 per cent in manufacturing due to difficulty of obtaining necessary raw materials abroad, the following industries showed considerable increases: tobacco, 46.8 per cent; textiles, 5.1 per cent; furniture and fixtures, 10.8 per cent; paper and paper products, 11.0 per cent; rubber products, 10.9 per cent; chemicals, 9.2 per cent; non-metallic mineral products, 5.2 per cent; metal products, 12.4 per cent; manufacture of transportation equipment, 13.3 per cent; and others, 5.5 per cent.

Our dollar reserves have gone up from 260 last year to 350 million today. The increase by P15 million of the January, 1951, revenue collection over the record of the same month in 1950 is a good sign of improvement in our

financial situation. And so is the fact that our exports for January, 1951, exceeded our imports for the same month by P22,357,673. All this, however, does not obviate the urgency of passing the exchange and corporate tax measures, the delay of whose approval will cost us no less than P100,000,000 in revenue loss for the first two quarters of this year if we do not act quickly.

Last year, we were unable to repair our roads thus hampering the effective use of the main arteries of our agriculture and commerce. With the initial release of P5,000,000 in the latter part of last year, increased subsequently by P6,000,000 shortly thereafter, and, only the other day, by another P1,200,000, making an aggregate sum of P12,200,000 for road and bridge repair, we are now resuming the necessary program of conservation and improvement of our highways and bridges.

We have acquired more bottoms to carry our foreign trade. Two new big ships have already been finished in Japan, and are now operating in the high seas, and a third one is due for delivery in a few months.

The construction of our national shipyards and steel works at Mariveles is nearing completion. When they get to be in full operation, our development program will acquire a quicker pace. The Lumot River diversion project in Laguna will be finished next month, augmenting the electric power capacity of the Caliraya plant to 30,000 kilowatts. The Talomo No. 1 project in Davao is already in operation with a 400-kilo-watt capacity, and the Talomo project No. 2 with an additional capacity of 400 kilowatts will be ready early next February.

Work is proceeding in the building of the Maria Cristina power project and fertilizer plant and the Ambuklao hydroelectric project. If the proper implementation of the program of construction is not arrested, we expect to see the Maria Cristina power project and fertilizer plant practically completed towards the end of this year.

We are moving forward in our program of opening public lands for the landless, and of resettling those of our population whose life has become intolerable in the slums and crowded, dissident-affected areas. We seek to enlarge not only the average landholding of our small farmer but also his production rate per hectare, and along with this, to provide opportunity for industrial activity to take care of his slack season and of those who have to move from the land.

We want to see that this resettlement program does not provide fresh breeding ground of injustice and unrest, revising our public land law when and where necessary. The cooperation of the Departments of National Defense, Agriculture, Education, and Health and the Social Welfare Administration is being fully used to this end. Mobile agricultural schools are included in the program of development of these settlements so that the settlers, will not only become peaceful landowners, but scientific farmers.

A new understanding is being effected between the sugar planters and millers, leading to industrial peace and the stabilization of one of our major industries. Both elements are supporting the minimum wage bill that would improve above bare subsistence level the life of workers in the cane fields and sugar mills.

At the Council of State meeting this noon, I received assurances from Congressional leaders' that before the end of the week the three remaining major legislative measures —namely, the minimum wage bill and the foreign exchange and corporate tax bill—will be finally acted upon favorably by both Houses. These are necessary accomplishments in order to carry out the Quirino-Foster agreement. They also agreed to approve the bill abolishing block voting and providing for a new permanent electoral census and an equitable apportionment of election inspectors, thus removing the mutual suspicion and distrust that have delayed for some time the approval of important constructive measures. Our Armed Forces have already been reorganized for greater efficiency and effectiveness in preserving our internal security. With the formation of ten more Battalion Combat teams, we shall have greatly strengthened our potential for the maintenance of peace and the acceleration of productive activities. More assistance is due soon from the United States to meet our needs for military supplies and equipment.

Thus, there are now hopeful indications that we are succeeding in bridging a most critical period of our difficulties in administration. And there is a feeling abroad in the land that this year—a year of bitter conflicts, and fateful

decisions for the world—may yet be, comparatively, the biggest year and the richest, in accomplishments for us as a growing democracy.

It is my great hope that, as we continue to broaden our areas of understanding and united action, we shall speedily reduce the margin of our fears, our distrust, our partisanship, our pointless conflicts.

Production, increased production, maximum production, is our greatest mainstay.

But like that of any housewife, our work is never done. With every problem solved, a host of new problems arises on top of the old.

Viewed in this spirit, our tasks, however numerous, and our responsibilities, however perplexing, become happy opportunities to prove the measure of our growth as a free people.

We are not alone in being harassed by the anxieties and demands of this age. We should derive courage from the fact that without swerving from our national course we have so far warded off the dangers to our national existence and thus while other peoples of the earth are taxing their nerve in the face of the present world turmoil, we are keeping our heads and hearts in the right place.

We should develop confidence therefore from the fact that we are strong enough to be called upon to do our part in world readjustment. We should be grateful that we are afforded the chance to contribute our share, in expanding the frontiers of freedom and happiness for our people. There is the best tonic we need to get rid of the debilitating spirit of defeatism. The constructive and positive attitude is a steady renewer and provider of the kind of energy we require to lift our country onto higher levels of moral and material well-being.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Twenty-ninth radio chat of President Quirino. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(3), 1111-1114.

Thirtieth monthly radio chat of President Quirino

Thirtieth monthly radio chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines To his fellow countrymen

[Delivered on April 15, 1951]

My Fellow Countrymen:

This is one of the most happy and significant occasions in which I hasten to report to you. Great history for our country has been made in these last few days—quite unspectacular but most far-reaching in consequence.

The approval of the counterpart measures called for in the U. S. Philippine Agreement, signed last year by myself and Mr. William C. Foster of the Economic Cooperation Administration in representation of President Truman, has met prompt, positive response in Washington. President Truman assured us that the United States Government will “proceed rapidly and actively” to carry out America’s part in the common enterprise upon which the Philippines and the United States have embarked, in accordance with the Agreement. United States Economic Administration William Foster also assured us that America will demonstrate the “affection, loyalty, enthusiasm and esteem the American people hold for the Filipinos.” Once again we hear fresh witness to the mutuality of good faith securely binding our two peoples.

With the Washington announcement of the release of an advance amount of 30 million pesos to push our development program, the Philippines enters a new era of economic construction and development.

The projects for immediate prosecution under this program come under six heads. The first concerns technical assistance, including technical personnel, facilities for the Central Experiment Station in Los Baños, and essential facilities for the agricultural extension service. The second concerns the completion of power projects already begun—the Maria Cristina power and fertilizer plants, the Ambuklao hydroelectric project, and smaller plants. The third concerns agricultural development, including coconut, abaca and other fibers research and development, the purchase of irrigation pumps, fertilizers, breeding stock, processing equipment, and soil survey and conservation. The fourth accounts industrial development, including the completion of the Ilocos Textile Mill, a strategic mineral survey facilities for the caustic soda-chlorine plant, development of cottage industries and the purchase of tires, spare parts, and other equipment for trucks and buses. The fifth touches on public works, including highway rehabilitation and road-building in Mindanao. And the sixth concerns low-cost housing and slum clearances, including removal and transfer of squatters in Manila, Baguio, and other congested population centers.

It now remains to us to keep our sleeves rolled up and attack our tasks with redoubled vigor. The need now is not only for purposeful concentration of government effort but for organized response and cooperation of our people to synchronize government action with private initiative under ECA aid. Responsibility for sustaining the counterpart requirement in the prosecution of the development program rests not only with the government but with private persons and enterprises needing assistance in the acquisition of equipment and supplies to advance the national industrial program.

The ECA assistance program, as a matter of fact, is designed to help not so much the government itself as the country at large in its general development. The basic objective is to lift our people from the morass of economic and financial instability.

It becomes, therefore, the concern not only of the government but of our workers and our leaders of industry to take the maximum advantage of the tremendous opportunity offered to make our country a self-sustaining, self-respecting nation. I repeat, we cannot leave everything to the government. There should be a widening of the people’s horizon as a whole. This should include seizing every possible means and occasion to develop every nook

and corner of this country, and husbanding the resources to multiply their yield and enrich the basis of improvement for the general welfare.

Idleness, complacency, indifference, aversion to hard work,—abetted, it must be admitted, by a relatively generous and prodigal environment,—have been the obstacle to our country's development in the past. These must be eradicated by vigorous measures on our people's part. There must be a rebirth of spirit and of will. There must be a new resolution to work and surmount those age-long obstructions.

There is a vital sector of our society which has been neglected, whose potentialities have not been intelligently cultivated for productive ends. I refer to that expanding army of our youth that could be trained from the beginning, even at a tender age, to do something practical, beneficial, and constructive for the advancement of the common welfare.

More stress is now being given to vocational training of the youth. But this should not be confined to school instruction. It should include guidance and implementation in every private home. It should mean measuring the possibilities of every private backyard, of every open free space in the community and around, for productive uses. There is immense creative power that we can muster in our youth with proper organization of our facilities and new opportunities under the assistance program of the ECA. Such power should and can be geared to production without detriment to the cultural development and progress of our youth.

The abuse of the potentialities of our youth by lawless elements is a most dangerous aspect of the picture of our times. Many of the captured agents of these elements are young people between 13 and 18 years of age. They carry arms, do courier work, take active part in vandal raids, commit brutalities only known in communist activities.

If our youth can be exploited for evil, I do not see why they cannot be utilized for good. The most serious efforts should be exerted to keep these young people away from the temptations and impositions of elements that are plotting night and day to destroy our own country and fellowmen. They should be kept busy in the school, creative in the shops, productive in the fields.

I would like to see caravans of our youth banding together in a spirit of youthful adventure, with farm implements in their hands and burning enthusiasm in their hearts, advancing toward an unexplored, unexploited space in our vast vacant public or private agricultural lands or even mountain fastnesses and ravines, determined to make something out of our heretofore untapped natural resources. It would be a new experience but decidedly in line with the spirit of the hour.

We have read records of young people in other lands moved by the same spirit, converting marshes into flourishing farms, little streams into irrigation systems, barren lands into pastures, and even deserts into agricultural lands and thriving communities. How inspiring to see our young people doing similar feats!

Another sector of our population we should properly organize and make more effective contributors to our economic and social stability is composed of our unemployed women. Many of the younger ones have been driven or lured to activities eminently destructive of our moral structure. Lack of work, lack of wholesome opportunities, lack of incentives, lack of guidance, have made them easy victims of unscrupulous, mercenary individuals who exploit them for immoral and illicit purposes. True, they do not constitute a substantial element, but there must be some organized and intelligent effort to prevent them from contaminating their equals and to convert them into social assets, productive elements of the community.

There are many home industries that we can develop to which these young elements of both sexes can be attracted. Reports of our industrial leaders lately on survey visits of our more industrialized neighbors indicate the many possibilities our country and people have in organizing industries that can make us a self-sustaining nation. I am gratified by their enthusiasm and new determination to establish such industries here which undoubtedly can succeed if we make proper use of the ECA assistance now being extended to us.

In the difficult days of the occupation, when our people faced the worst handicaps imaginable, we saw how rich and varied were the forms in which the industrial ingenuity of our countrymen found expression—from footwear to vehicles and pastry confections. We have better incentives and opportunities now to translate our industrial talents operating on our native resources, into forms of lasting benefit to our economy. We are getting assistance now which we never did before. Even our true friends do not mind our working out our economic destiny in a fashion not favorable to their interests so long as we can assure the strengthening of our system of political freedom and economic opportunity.

And so, let's roll up our sleeves and let them stay that way as we take full advantage of the new atmosphere. We have made a bold decision of self-help; we have adopted a program of national action. Let us rally everybody and, by our example, inspire the rest around us to action, fruitfully responsive to the demands and opportunities of the new era.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Thirtieth monthly radio chat of President Quirino. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(4), 1723-1726.

Extemporaneous Reply of President Quirino to the remarks of Secretary Frank Pace, Jr.

**Extemporaneous Reply
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the remarks of Secretary of the Army, Frank Pace, Jr., at a Malacañan luncheon**

[Released on April 15, 1951]

NEVER SURRENDERED PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY

JUST TO AVOID the impression that this is purely an American affair, I think I must say something on behalf of the people whose destiny I guide. I have graciously and spontaneously responded to the desire of Ambassador Cowen to say a few words because Ambassador Cowen has recently accepted a very pleasant role in my government and that is, as my public relations man. I was never so happy in my administration and this took me three years to learn, until I was able to discover not only the heart of Ambassador Cowen but also that of the military adviser, General Hobbs, that I have two men beside me who have not only cooperated with me but have learned how to feel the same way as I do, toward the strong attachment that binds the United States and the Philippines together.

I repeat, I was never so happy in my three years of administration until I discovered the two gentlemen. If I were a candidate in the coming elections, I would certainly exploit this in my campaign. But there are many people who already are becoming jealous of the apparent, not to say patent, cooperation extended to me by these two gentlemen. And it is a fact that there are those who have the impression that we are a puppet of the United States. But if you analyze the situation of this country side by side with that of the United States, the American people should take as much if not more interest in us, if they want to protect us and see that we survive our greatest vicissitudes in this part of the world.

The Filipinos, at least the present generation, enjoy the whole American system of education, of government, of politics and of economy. So it is very hard to conceal the fact that we are already a part of America. Whenever we think, we reveal the same principles, the same traditions, the same aspirations, and the same sentiment as those of our American friends. No wonder we look like puppets of the United States. If to maintain this country prosperous in order to survive and to lay the foundations of an enduring national existence based on the American ideology is to be a puppet, then I am a puppet. But I may add that the greatest differences I have had with Americans in the Philippines were in some of their dealings with me in the past. I refer you to Ambassador McNutt and to other Americans who had propositions to present to this government through me. And I bear witness to the fact that while I recognize America's guidance, helpful spirit, and proper example; and while I recognize America as a great builder of this country, I have never at any moment surrendered the sovereignty, much less the dignity and the future of our country. (*Applause*)

I am happy to witness the increasing interest of the United States government and people in our work here, especially at this time when we need assistance from outside. We in the Orient have had discouraging, not to say disheartening, defeats in our minds, defeats which have greatly affected our morale; but if you were to take alone the isolated action of the United States government last week, it would be a big mistake because many great people have recently visited this country, including members of the cabinet and distinguished members of the army, all of whom have come here successively to find out in what manner the United States could assist us in our political and financial difficulties, our economic instability, and the one thousand and one things this government is undergoing: because of our financial instability and troubled atmosphere. If we were to judge the interest of the United States in accordance with what has been made available to us as a result of these successful visits, it would be wrong, I repeat, to interpret that America's interest lags behind as shown by recent events.

I know how the United States feels towards the Philippines. The United States will never allow this symbol of democracy to be sacrificed just to please a neighbor or to be gracious to friends across the seas. When the United

States allowed us our independence we rejoiced in declaring our sovereignty. America accepted the challenge to make our country the bulwark of democracy. I know that she will never allow this bulwark to topple down.

Secretary Pace, you have honored our country. You are one of the last Americans to visit this country, but you came on time to assure us of America's concern for our future despite recent events. We are the fortunate beneficiaries of your liberal policy to the world and we will never forget that you came here to encourage us and give us — what shall I say, General Hobbs? — material assistance. (*Applause*)

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino before the Boy Scout Executives

Extemporaneous Remarks of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines Before the Boy Scout Executives

[Delivered at the Social Hall, Malacañan, May 5, 1951]

Mr. Vargas, Fellow Scouters and Friends:

What used to be a mere adult civic hobby among the originators of the idea of organizing the Boy Scouts in the Philippines has now developed into an adult avocation. Thus, you are getting here together as executives or directing heads of the local organizations in order to discuss how to coordinate your efforts and your activities with a view to accomplishing with effectiveness and efficiency the purposes of your organization.

I know that many of you have grown in this institution. Your Mr. Villacorta was still in shorts when I saw him for the first time attending meetings of the Boy Scouts. I have watched him very closely as he grew up and made himself so useful in the organization that we can now call him the real prototype of Boy Scouting not only at home but also abroad. [*Applause.*] The other organizers of the association, Mr. Vargas and all the other members of the committee which includes a university president, a college dean, a business manager, and other prominent men in society, to say nothing of those who have already crossed the Great Beyond, such as Supreme Court Justice Abad Santos and our great friends whom we will never forget, Judge Camus and Major Stevenot,—have left or are going to leave their names in history as great organizers of the Boy Scout. Some of those remaining will eventually preside over the destinies of this nation in their respective spheres of influence.

Your meeting in Manila is very timely. This year is a year, of enormous and huge activities in the advancement of our economic progress and in the preservation of our liberty and freedom. There is no phase of our national life that can be neglected in our effort to explore every possible means and source of strength of this nation.

Boys scouting is not merely training people for good citizenship and inculcating the qualities upon which the organization is based such as patriotism, kindness, friendship, fellowship, and others. There is something more than all that.

Today we are engaged in carrying out our program of action to make our country stable, enduring and strong. When the Russian Government began to exploit all the resources of its vast empire which had long been neglected because nobody thought that it contained so much untapped wealth, everybody believed that Russia was just a big, barren territory useless to humanity. But when the Russians adopted the five-year plan and began to organize scouting parties, dividing the population into young and old, men and women, professionals and laymen, and assigning them to their respective fields of activity, all with a view to developing the country intensively and extensively, the outside world changed its attitude of skepticism into one of surprise.

I am not going to dwell long on the Russian five-year plan. My sole purpose is to explain how we, too, could utilize our untapped and unexplored resources in the same manner that the people of Russia utilized theirs, for the purpose of carrying out most effectively our program of development. The Russians organized parties and went far beyond what people thought was the limit of human habitation. They dared snows; they dared winters; they dared the dangers in the North Pole; and they dared discover places nobody had seen before. Some of them went to the mountains and ravines in an effort to discover what mine, coal, or other minerals they could utilize for their country's industrialization. Others went to the lakes and the seas in order to sound them and see what kinds of fish lived there.

When they all returned from their different expeditions they elaborately and systematically put together their notes and submitted them to the scientists and specialists so that the latter may determine what could be done with their

land, forest, mountain and water resources. Later the work was distributed among different types of people and specialists. With genius and determination the Russians were able to prepare what they called the Russian Primer which contained all the information upon which to base their general industrialization program.

This program was inaugurated in 1928, but Russia has renewed it systematically every five years ever since. Today, nobody knows exactly what the situation in Russia is because she is so well protected by the Iron Curtain. Nobody knows how many cities, how many buildings, and how many factories she has. Not even her population is known, nor her standing army, her total strength, and her potentialities in world affairs. All that we know is that she is defying the whole world today. Why? There must be some reason, some strength, and some hidden source of power and influence that encourage her to defy the world.

Now, my friends, there are many countries that have adopted similar methods of exploration and exploitation. Take the young republic of Israel. It has a desert. The young folks of Israel organized themselves into scouting parties, established cooperative farms, and transformed the desert into productive farms.. You will hear from people who have seen them that they are very envious of our position because we don't have to turn deserts into farm lands with the cooperation and upon the initiative of the young.

In the country today, we have a new source of strength; the power of the nation's youth. If all these scout organizations you now have could be utilized for the purpose of coordinating all the information and the data available upon which to base our current program of general development, I am sure we could greatly accelerate our country's development. Already established are many facilities. New and more industries are being encouraged and promoted. With them we are going to provide our people with new and additional sources of income. When we have completed the Ambuklaw power project we shall be able to furnish electric power from Manila northward, from Central Luzon to Ilocos Sur, La Union, and the Mountain Province. Intervening provinces in the vicinity will also be able to make use of it, giving new impetus to new and old industries.

There is a small Catholic school in Baguio where children manufacture silver trinkets. I don't know if you have seen their products but they are beautiful. Their work is now popular in the United States. Foreigners who come here ask for the children who manufacture these trinkets. I have been giving gifts of these trinkets to visitors from the United States. Now, these children were just trained by the Mothers in charge of the school, who succeeded in utilizing the young genius with brawn to produce such popular trinkets.

Why can't we do something like manufacturing toy articles and decorative furniture? Why can't we form cooperative fishing, cooperative farming, cooperative poultry-raising and cooperative vegetable production? These little things can be handled by young folks. Instead of merely exhibiting resplendent uniforms and saluting in a spic-and-span manner in public demonstrations, why can't we train our young to be productive? We may be able to give you assistance, initial capital, if only you can get together and take vital interest in the activities affecting the economy of each locality. If the aggregate units of the barrios, the provinces and cities could, be formed and their efforts evaluated, I am quite sure they would be substantial.

Now, you, gentlemen, who are directing this organization in your respective communities, can give mature advice, proper guidance, and inspiring example. You are in a position to utilize the boy power of this nation. As you go on with your deliberations, I hope you will see your way clear to utilize it not only to foster civic spirit, patriotism, and fellowship, but also for the more immediate needs of the community and the nation.

Gentlemen, I am going to cut short my remarks because after all what I wanted was to hear from you, in what way the government can help you in your activities. That is why I invited you to this hall: to give me an opportunity to hear you, not you to hear me. I would like to hear you before we close this afternoon's reunion. (Applause)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Extemporaneous remarks of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, before the Boy Scout Executives at the Social Hall, Malacañan, May 5, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(5), 2278-2281.

Thirty-first monthly radio chat of President Quirino

Thirty-first Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Broadcast from Malacañan, May 15, 1951]

Fellow Countrymen:

Like the water of the sea our fate as a nation has been rising and rolling during the recent months as the gales of Communism or the tide currents of economic and financial reactions affected the stability of this country. Fortunately, the waves that have risen to stir the minds of our people are reaching the shores in ripples, carrying with them fertile sediments of progress and understanding.

One by one, in the successive and steady flow of events, we have observed the gradual approach to the attainment of our national goals.

Because of the alarming threats to our state of law and order, we are becoming more and more aware of the present precarious situation and the dangers ahead. While our fears are not totally allayed, we have gone far in the realization that those fears are not unfounded and that the threats can be curbed. Thus, our position is now more realistic and responsive to the present contingencies. We should know by now that the program of infiltration and destruction of the subversive elements comprehends all areas of our national life—political, social, cultural, and economic. We live in a fool's paradise to think the struggle is limited to the treacherous passage of arms in our jungles and hills. If we are to know real peace again, we must gird ourselves for a struggle that knows no quarter, whether in the home or in the field, in the swamps or in the legislative chambers. We must be on the alert in whatever sector we find ourselves and advance until the enemy is put to rout.

The problems of the security of the state have been more clearly defined. We are now convinced, more than ever, that we are not alone or isolated, unaided and undefended, in case of any emergency that affects the integrity of this nation.

As preparations are made for the settlement of the Japanese peace treaty, we can look forward to arrangements that will assure defensive cooperation in our part of the world and the maintenance of our national security. We have given due notice of our determination to push our just claims for reparations, but we are no less prepared to contribute our share to the establishment and strengthening of a regional community bound by a common loyalty to freedom and democracy. The danger posed by a new imperialism that is testing its power in Korea has added impetus to the joint determination to meet its threat and provide for it in the settlement of that treaty.

With regard to our economic security, much has been done to give new incentives to our economic development and thus strengthen our position. The extension to our country of the ECA program under a mutual understanding with the United States of America cannot be fully realized just now. Although we have already been granted 15 million dollars as aid under the program, the equipment, supplies and technical assistance covered thereby are still on the way, and their effects upon our national economy cannot be felt or observed until a few months later.

But the main thing is that the program has started. And with the ratification of the bilateral agreement with the United States by our Senate the other day, we have complied with the last step to complete our formal commitment towards the realization of the general program of development. Our immediate responsibility is to understand fully the operation and objective of the assistance we are getting.

Then we can be in a better position to utilize it to full advantage in building up the kind of economy that is compatible with our vision of a free society.

I said in my last chat that this assistance marks a new era in our life as a nation. It certainly is here—this new day—and must be. We should henceforth take care that we do not substitute discussion for work. We have immediate tasks to accomplish.

One of these tasks is increasingly to see the surface of our great country and, intelligently appraise the source of our strength—the soil, the rivers, the waterfalls, the lakes, the forests, the mountains, and the deep deposits beneath. It is our job to mobilize and revolutionize the means of exploiting our resources in order to secure the greatest benefit for the welfare of our people. The appropriation of our country's resources should mean the just equitable share among our people of the benefits to be derived. To this end, we are constantly reviewing our policies and revising our laws, consistent with the spirit of free enterprise on which we expect our democracy to find continued nourishment.

Not enough of our people as yet have gone into enterprises to create wealth out of our natural resources. But I know that many are increasingly turning their attention to this side of our nation-building. The satisfaction that they are due to reap should be not only from helping build their country but from spreading the participation of the enjoyment of its fruits among our people. There can be no stability in a social order where the wealth of the nation finds increasing concentration in a few hands in direct proportion to the impoverishment of the community as a whole.

It is time for all of us to come down to earth from the heights of logic and imagination to which the discussions of global and vital issues have recently taken us. We must now address ourselves to our immediate tasks with increased will and ardor.

The government has started a new program of wealth distribution. We have strived in the past to create various means to extend the opportunities to this end. We have purchased big landed estates to be distributed to the landless. We have established land settlements in various parts of the country, from the vacant spaces in the Cagayan Valley to the rich virgin plains and forests of Mindanao and Palawan. In order to further promote production, we have even decreed that any vacant public agricultural land anywhere else in the country could be settled even by those who own lands, but especially by the landless, for immediate cultivation, giving the latter the privilege to own the portions they occupy and allowing them 10 hectares each and 10 years to pay for their portion in accordance with the Land Law. While many have taken advantage of these opportunities, in order to hasten the distribution of our public lands and at the same time solve the social question posed by the subversive elements who flaunt land reform as their excuse for bloody violence, we have offered these elements a new and economic opportunity.

Somewhere in Mindanao, and specifically in the Cotabato Valley and in the plains of Kapatagan in Lanao, we inaugurated a unit of settlement and production initiated and spearheaded by the Armed Forces of the Philippines—the Economic Development Corps of the Army (EDCOR). During the last two months, we have been sending settlers there composed principally of landless or misplaced persons or former lawless elements who have determined to make good under the folds of the law. There are no less than 100 families in Kapatagan now.

We prepared their lots in the choice spots and built temporary dwellings for them. Upon their arrival they found experienced men to guide them in their agricultural pursuits, and members of the armed forces to protect them in their daily tasks. We will eventually establish schools for their children and open roads for their communication. Secretary Magsaysay who went to visit them reported yesterday the high morale of these pioneers fired with a new hope. Those who originally joined, partly skeptical of the honesty of the venture, have by now developed a new enthusiasm exceeding the expectations of the dreamers of the project.

This development raises the potentialities of our army's positive contribution to the restoration of peace in our countrysides; at the same time it demonstrates the greater possibility of converting the misguided elements into productive agencies for the promotion of the national economy.

We propose to continue extending opportunity and assistance to those of our fellow citizens who desire to return to the ways of peace and productive activity. While our virgin lands are not unlimited, there is enough now for all who

have the courage, the vision, and the readiness to help build for themselves and their children a better order that rewards industry, protects liberty, and assures self-respect.

Thus, we propose also to convert other portions of the patrimony of the state, such as the Candaba swamps, into economic assets, from the social liabilities that they are at present.

Our strength in the world-wide struggle to preserve freedom will double and multiply according as we purge ourselves of the dross in us, in our practices, in our institutions, which the Communists find so convenient to exploit. Let us think; but what is better, let us dig, plant, produce; let us create the plenty essential to peace, and liberty.

Then we shall give the example, and not allow the misguided elements to be deceived by the kind of “democracy” and the “liberation” that the Communists hope to effect in order to institute a new imperialism and a new slavery.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Thirty-first monthly radio chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, broadcast from Malacañan, May 15, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(5), 2281-2285.

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino to the Escolta Walking Corporation, May 31, 1951

**Extemporaneous Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the Escolta Walking Corporation**

[Released on May 31, 1951]

ESCOLTA WALKING CORPORATION

THIS is one of the most beautiful intermezzos in my public life in Malacañan. I have long wished to have an opportunity to meet those who have not found their way to understanding me at a distance. I have learned one great thing in my public career. This lesson, I think, will bring forth fruitful results in the future. The best way to know an enemy is to see him closer. (*Applause*)

When “Senator” Lovina asked me to accept the honor of being your guest at the Astoria, I immediately reacted against accepting his invitation. There were several reasons for my declining it. Today proves that my reasons for insisting that instead of my accepting your invitation, you come and join me at Malacañan Park, are tenable ones. After hearing all your unguarded speeches and even your unkind remarks about peoples and circumstances, I think that Malacañan Park should be called henceforth Manila’s Hyde Park. (*Applause*)

I relish hearing all your verbal brickbats—the prepared “extemporaneous” speeches of some of your members and the inspired observations of some of my friends on the other side of the political fence. I am fairly convinced that the Escolta Walking Corporation is really a group of men and women who are not afraid to say anything anywhere at anytime, especially when, under the influence of liquor, they can tell half-truths, no truths, or deliberately abuse the truth. (Laughter)

I paused for a moment at the beginning of the remarks of Secretary Sanidad to consider whether he should have been allowed to speak or not. I must confess at the outset all of us thought that he should not have spoken at all. Little by little, however, as he sobered down to his senses he said many things that are worth remembering.

Even Dr. Cortes, who was intoxicated with his enthusiasm (*Laughter*) in his plea for the interest of the common tao said many fundamental things, after quoting Charlemagne, Alexander the Great, and Jesus Christ, that are worth not only remembering but also observing. I will never forget what he said, “You must rule with love.” That I would like to follow. (*Applause*)

This is a recreation hall. I invited you to this place because I wanted you to relax. You have been taking yourselves too seriously. Those of you who have had some intense feelings, hate or suspicion, or any ulterior motives before you came here should relax. Relax. Let us take advantage of the occasion and look at the brighter side of things.

Heretofore, the reported activities of the Escolta Walking Corporation as well as the remarks the members make when they meet at the Astoria gave me the impression that this is a group of inconsiderate, vicious, malicious individuals who pass the time in a café in order to unburden themselves of their ill-feelings against anybody, after which they feel happy. I am reminded of a great man in Spain, who lived during the first part of the 19th century. Many of you have heard of him or read some of his works—Santiago Ramon y Cajal. He published his works which he called *Charlas de Café*. I have read that book. In fact, I have a collection of his writings. He is a doctor of medicine, philosopher, literary figure, and man of the world. He never attended large gatherings of academic people or reunions of the near great where they talk big. He used to walk from one street corner to another hearing remarks, talking to persons in the streets, including beggars, laborers, and the useless pedestrians in Madrid. After that he retired to write his *Charlas de Café*, a collection of witty and wise observations. I recommend that you read his book. It contains many aphorisms, sayings, practical jokes, and witticisms.

I am reminded of his life because it resembles the life of many a man in the Escolta Walking Corporation. We never see them in public affairs any time. They don't attend big reunions, they don't join academic gatherings, they don't participate in public debates and meetings; and yet daily they continue digging and digging deeper into the mine of human knowledge. Given the chance, some of you, I am sure, will write some day something like the *Charlas de Caf e* of Ramon y Cajal. (*Applause*) I know one who can do that today, and that is my friend, Judge Teodoro. Reading his articles, I know that he keeps thinking on things. Some day we may see the fruits of his observations.

My friends, despite first impressions, I am now convinced that the Escolta Walking Corporation is not composed of jobless men. It is not composed of useless men who pass their time sipping coffee at the Astoria or waiting for an opportunity to secure employment. Many of them, as was well said by the last speaker, are really successful businessmen, lawyers, physicians, judges and prominent politicians, most of whom ride on limousines.

The Escolta Walking Corporation, however, has so far indulged in speaking only. It should be called at this stage not the Escolta Walking Corporation but the Escolta Talking Corporation. I would like the members to think of something substantial by which it may be remembered tomorrow. We have inaugurated today the laying of the cornerstone of a sort of Liberty Park or Hyde Park in the Sunken Gardens. I would like you to get busy and help prepare the park for public debates or discussions of this kind. Make something out of a dream not only of Malaca an but also of the city officials. I initiated the move. The city officials took it up and laid the cornerstone for the Liberty Park, now called Roxas Liberty Park. Call it anything you want, as long as there is a park in which you can talk and out-talk yourselves.

My friends, I don't know whether I should speak lightly or seriously on this occasion, judging from the hilarity with which you have responded to all the jokes. Many of you, it seems, are more inclined to hear light things; but let us also hear serious things. Sometimes nonsense and jokes contain truth and deep philosophy. Well, I don't know whether I can live up to your expectation. I want to respond in the same light vein you have shown this evening. Your genial toastmaster has cracked so many jokes. But first I want to thank you for the caricature "Senator" Lovina presented to me. I appreciate the spirit in which it was given.

The Escolta Walking Corporation is welcome to Malaca an. This is a recognition of the validity and usefulness of your organization. (*Applause*) If I remember correctly, even before the war there was such a funny organization which met in one of the popular cafes, Tom Dixie Kitchen, and called itself "Lagotiam" (Lagot ang Tian). I think that was the beginning of your organization. People who lost, people who had no business, people who looked for somebody's sympathy or moral support, used to gather there and talk while sipping coffee, making it uneconomical for the establishment.

Your small, questionable origin has developed into something fruitful and practical. It is good to have an organization like yours. You have gossiped about, criticized, and lashed at people in the government and those engaged in civic activities throughout the country. There is nothing wrong in gossiping so long as the ultimate objective is worthwhile. The newspapers are not enough. Spoken words are sometimes more effective. That is one of the secrets of the success of our democracy nowadays. Were I to compare the democracy established in the Philippines and the democracies in other parts of the world, I would proudly say that we have been able to withstand all the political upheavals and social convulsions in this country in spite of the destruction after the world war and the subversive campaign carried on by the misguided elements of our country. Our democracy has withstood all tests. I am happy to say that despite political bickerings and the systematic partisan campaign of one party and also the diabolical encounters not only in public plazas but also on the battlefields we have been able to hold our heads high, calm and composed, as we build this nation and give it permanence. (*Applause*)

One of the greatest ordeals of my public life I underwent during the first quarter of last year when I was sick in bed, desperately recuperating from an operation. Congress was still in session. Very few knew how sick I was. I passed sleepless nights. I was practically on the verge of desperation. And yet it was precisely at that time that I was mercilessly attacked. How unkind and inconsiderate, how unreasonable and unjust were those attacks. They said that I was malingering and had abandoned the country! Those days were to me the darkest hours of my public life. They coincided with the period of our financial stress. The rebels of this country were then actively organizing for the purpose of subverting the government while war in Korea was breaking out. There were political convulsions, social

upheavals. Everybody thought that this country was going to collapse. One newspaper specially predicted that by the end of September, 1950, this government would collapse. Later the date was changed to the end of last December.

All these attacks from parties, from political enemies, from those who misunderstood me showed a conspiracy, not only to discourage me, but to push me to the precipice politically and physically. But thank God, I have been able to keep calm, composed, patient, and tolerant. Last year was also one of the worst years in our life as a nation, what with the clashes around our region and the loss of confidence we suffered abroad as a result of mutual bickerings at home, degrading our country to the point of despising our own government, sometimes our own people. Talk of corruption, talk of graft, talk of irregularities, talk of financial debacle,—all this contributed to make the situation worse, much worse than what we expected.

It was only our ability to resist the temptation of joining the revolutionists in an hour of desperation that saved our country. We kept on praying. We kept on resisting morally and physically all the great forces that would have wrought havoc on our national life. We took courage, however, and watched how the storm would subside. Little by little, slowly but surely, we managed to recover our equanimity. We never lost our head. We have practiced democracy to the limit. If you read the newspapers, the articles, the editorials, or heard some remarks that passed from mouth to mouth, sometimes from people with ulterior motives, you would have thought that this country was really going to the dogs. We were going through a severe test with our democracy. Fortunately, we have succeeded in weathering all storms, social, political, partisan, and otherwise, and while all the world is still engaged in dissensions, with the repercussions reaching our shores, gradually we have collected our wits. Today, we stand determined to fight for our future.

My friends, we have withstood all those ordeals, including the bickerings in the Senate and in the House, the attacks on the administration and even on me, converting us into a front wall in a big political fronton where all those who wanted to play the political *jai-alai* — and everybody aspired to be a *pelotari*—smashed the ball against the wall. We have withstood all these. We have been able to withstand all these shocks, and as a result the greatest, the most far-reaching, and the most substantial legislation in the past year has been approved by congress. (*Applause*) This shows that we have reached political maturity. This shows that we have reached maturity as a democratic country; that we have sufficient character; that when we are faced with a serious problem, we are sensible, responsible, and patriotic, and know how to bow to the paramount interests of our country. That is real democracy in the Philippines, and I am proud of it. I know that this country, this republic, will endure longer than any of the new nations.

My friends, the task has not been fully accomplished. We are just beginning a beautiful chapter in our national history. Many things have to be done yet, great things have to be accomplished, and a bright future has to be realized. That is why we are called upon to feel the heavy national responsibility of making this country strong and united, ready to fight for our liberty which is now being assailed from every direction. If we continue to show our character as a race, I am quite sure the Filipino people will play their part well in the world. (*Applause*)

You go from one neighboring country to another; cross the seas, the Atlantic and the Pacific, and observe how people fare. You will be pleased to learn that our country compares favorably with many countries of the world today. The Republic of the Philippines is not big compared with the United States or Europe, but we are holding the balance of democracy.

If the Philippines falls, it is a sign that this region is not yet ready for democracy. The great democracies have faith and confidence in us. They expect us to live and fight for democracy. If we fail them, we shall never rise again in their estimation. You know how we have been able to achieve fame in the international field. Small as we are, we have led in some of the deliberations of the general assembly of the United Nations. But we must keep, develop, enhance, and raise this country to a higher degree in order that we may continue enjoying the freedom and the reputation that we have achieved in this generation. Do not minimize the importance of your country. There is a great work in our hand. There is a great future ahead of us. If we are going to work together, each and everyone doing his part, I am positive that the Philippines will leave a name through our efforts for generations to come. I thank you.

Source: The Quirino Way: Collection of Speeches and Addresses of Elpidio Quirino

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino before teachers, June 5, 1951

**Extemporaneous Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before teachers**

[Released on June 5, 1951]

TEACHERS SHOULD SPREAD LIGHT

ALMOST 45 years ago I was a *barrio* school teacher in a school the site of which no longer appears on the map. It was washed away by the Abra River. The school was in barrio Caparia-an, formerly a part of the municipality of Caoayan near Vigan. I taught school for one semester only. After that I availed, myself of the following vacation to further my studies.

My experience was therefore very short but that was the first time I entered public life, and, as you know, first impressions last the longest. My first impression of public life was nurtured with a burning ambition. I was not satisfied with being a barrio school teacher. By the time vacation was over, I had saved a good part of my salary which I had been turning over to my mother — about P50. I took a boat bound for Manila where since then I have lived longer than in my own province. In the city I grappled with untold difficulties. It is here where I earned the reputation of being a self-made man. I worked my way through college from the high school in Manila to the University of the Philippines. It is a regrettable fact that throughout my four-year law course, I was not able to buy even one class textbook. That did not mean that I had no money or that I lagged behind. I was able to pull through and finished my course without any hitch.

I love to remember my humble beginnings. Many students who have begun in a very modest way as I did are often discouraged in the middle of the road. If I succeeded after forty-five years of struggle to reach the first magistracy of this land, it is because of two qualities or factors: firm determination and burning ambition.

I still have another ambition, and that is to retire some day from this palace to another barrio school and teach in it. I expect to be able to realize that ambition. I have already prepared my retirement. I have built a small house in Novaliches where I am trying to learn how to be a good farmer. I am now an amateur farmer but I will try to make good and see if during the days of my retirement I shall not be able to uplift the adults who have never been to school in all their lives. There are many of them still. That is going to be the concluding and culminating chapter of my ambition as a citizen of this country.

I am amused to hear the beautiful sugar coating of your purpose in coming to Manila: to discuss topics which would promote your community life and thereby make the adult people profit from your experience and your training or, as you expressed it, to develop your philosophy of social service. Why don't you begin with the last number? You came here to find out whether your future is going to be assured by this administration or not. It certainly is as long as I am here. (*Applause*)

It is a source of pride to me that in my public service I was able to improve the salaries and the conditions of the public school teachers by raising your pay, fixing its minimum, and making your vacation leave commutable. And we are not going to stop there. (*Applause*) Personally, I will not because I know that you are in the frontline of the great national brigade. There are messengers in the government, even laborers, who earn more today than the barrio school teachers and yet the school teacher has as great a responsibility as the top officials of the national government. You mould the minds of our youth in the barrios and in the municipalities. You are the first light that they see in their community.

In a brigade where we want to bring the people closer to the government and make them understand the functions of government and the extent of their duties and privileges, it is you who first give the light and explain the rights and

responsibilities of the citizen. That is why the great mass of teachers in the Philippines constitutes the front line in this brigade of national understanding that must be promoted, exploited, and accelerated in order to enlighten and quicken the people in a counter-campaign against those who are trying to sow in our soil the seeds of dangerous theories of life which we find most inimical to our liberty and freedom.

Your campaign of furthering your community life or, as you call it, community center schools, must be encouraged. It is in line with our policy of constituting other agencies in the outlying communities to enable us to carry out our national policies with a complete system of communications and direct contact with the people, such as the *barangay*, the community assembly, the boy scouts and girl scouts, and civic and charitable associations of every kind sponsored and assisted by the national government. But all these should be coordinated. They should be accelerated. Your life in each community is one of leadership. We should overcome the monotony in the barrios or in isolated political entities of this country by injecting new enthusiasm and giving them a new outlook. We should not be content with being chosen as leaders in athletics, in literary programs, or in beauty contests. You must do more than that to arouse the intellectual curiosity and sharpen the intelligence of our people and make them enthusiastic in their association with you as you promote the general welfare of the community.

You say you are now 85,000 teachers. Over two decades ago you were only 25,000. Imagine the enormous number that is representing us as individual units in each community. If we could make the whole country hum with your activities, your inspiration, your courage, how beneficial that would be to all of us. I remember the days when there were not so many schools in the barrios and when we used to hear people almost in every home reading and singing the *Pasion*.

Now, something like that should be evolved to attract people and bolster their morale and their spirit, and break the monotony in each community. It may take the form of a community or cooperative store, a cooperative irrigation system, cooperative vegetable production, or a cooperative poultry association. It may vary to folk dances, songs, and serenades at night. I used to take part in such serenades and I can tell you that it exerted some influence in my life. At night when you hear a serenade, especially when you are alone and lonesome, when you hear a love song, you feel something uplifting and you wake up in the morning almost repeating, humming the song you heard the night before. You must put up something like that to arouse the interest and enthusiasm of the community and the people.

Text books will not be enough. Songs that are almost of the same pattern all over the Philippines will not be enough, either. You must invent something new — new tunes, new songs — to interest people. Such innovations will make community life more pleasant.

As leaders in each community, you should spread light. Go beyond the present horizon. See if you can dig up something which will interest the people and make them follow you as their confirmed leaders. Eighty-five thousand teachers constitute a strong force in the frontlines for the civic and social welfare of the people.

I am glad you found time to come to Manila before the opening of the next regular school session. The barrio school teacher should be encouraged to come to Manila if only to broaden his outlook, his mental horizon. Teachers should not be made to depend only on what they read. They should see how people fight like tigers and lions in their public debates so that they can impart their impressions to their pupils and neighbors when they go back to their respective districts. Such things are necessary today. The world is getting monotonous. We are not concerned today only with the world struggle for supremacy. We are forgetting many of the little things that make human life worth-while and interesting. Let us give incentive to our population in the outlying districts and infuse more enthusiasm into them so that they may be better prepared to contribute their share in the growth and development of their country, the result of which will be seen in the next two or three years. Many people do not realize the great strides we have made in rebuilding the Philippines and enhancing its name and fame which we now enjoy. Many people have remained ignorant of what is going on in our country. Some of them believe that we are still living in those days when the Spaniards just ordered us about and we obeyed them blindly.

You had better read your history, read the news about world events and compare them with the march of events in your country. Tell all and sundry that when the Spaniards conquered us we were less than three million; that when

the United States landed on our shores we were only six million. Tell them that when we established the Commonwealth Government we were not more than 16 million, and that now we are 20 million people. Tell them how poor we were then and how dark was our region and show them how advantageous our position is today strategically in commerce, in civilization, in world affairs; how the Philippines has been elevated to the extent of presiding over the agencies of the United Nations. Tell them how the Philippines is now faring among the powers of the world. We don't have to possess a big standing army like Russia or the United States in order to be heard in the high councils of the world. Tell them that we have assimilated all the types of culture that have been brought to this country — from Europe, from America, from China, Japan, India, and Malaya, all of which came here in successive waves, leaving behind sediments of their influence, their culture, their religion, and their civilization as well as their outlook on national life. Describe to them how we have evolved into a new nation, not the old nation of which Rizal dreamt or the nation that Lakandula conceived, but far more progressive and distinguished and enterprising. Not only have we been able to keep pace with the world but today we stand as the most civilized nation in this part of the earth.

Let us arouse the interest of our people. Let us awaken their enthusiasm about the epic of our nation and make them proud of their country, the country that God has given us to cherish and to develop to the utmost.

My friends, you have the best opportunity to make this country strong, solid, and great. Our geographical position is such that we should always get together and pull together. Let us obliterate once for all that sense of regional pride, overcome our language difficulty, and coordinate our efforts so that although we speak several dialects yet fundamentally we are one, one in thought, one in aspiration, one in action, and one in future. (*Applause*)

You have a great task before you. I wish I had the privilege of being reborn so that I might feel anew the tremendous responsibility that faces you and cooperate with you in this new urge to work for the survival of our nation while other nations are being threatened with annihilation. Let me sound a word of warning. If we do not look out, if we do not prepare our people to defend our country to the limit, we, too, may have to follow those nations which one by one have fallen because of the aggressiveness of Soviet propaganda. It is necessary that in each community you inculcate on our people the necessity of pulling together and defending our country against external aggression. Today, as you already know, many parts of our land are being harassed by unprincipled, unpatriotic, dangerous elements who are not only trying to subvert this government but are killing hundreds of innocent children, aged people, and even hospital patients in their mad desire to sow discord and confusion and deliver their own people and country to a foreign and ruthless power.

My friends, you must cooperate with the national government in this fight. The forces of our country are not enough. Our means of propaganda are not enough. The government cannot satisfy all the demands of the communities which have never received any benefits from the government before. Something must be done to supplement this deficiency, and that something is your effort, your patriotic interest, your enlightened leadership in your respective communities. We are a young nation but we are old in experience. We are weak physically but we are strong in spirit. We have a great responsibility in this part of the world. Let us maintain that prestige by continued exertion of effort ever to promote the social welfare and elevate our citizenry so that we may be able to vie with the other nations of the world.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Thirty-Second Radio Chat of President Quirino, June 15, 1951

Thirty-Second Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Broadcast from Malacañan, June 15, 1951]

Fellow Countrymen:

We are about to celebrate the fifth anniversary of our Republic. This is a good time to check up on our perspectives for the proper appreciation of that anniversary.

What was a frail seedling five, years back is now a vigorous sapling—there can be no question about that. The circumstances under which it was planted could not have been more inauspicious—vast property devastation, economic prostration, physical and moral deterioration, the hangover of hunger, terror and death. All we had was courage and a stubborn faith, the residuum of an indestructible spiritual inheritance that remained shining across the years of struggle, suffering, and pain.

In the midst of such formidable initial handicaps, it was possible that many of our people did not fully realize the gravity of the difficulties ahead. It was just as well that they did not. The moral impact of a full, widespread consciousness of those difficulties upon our people could have been so over-powering as to induce paralysis of faith, brain, and muscle. Anyway, we took our life and destiny in our hands, as it were; we seized our chance and made the plunge—confounding the most solicitous doubters at home and abroad.

Today, as we prepare for the fifth anniversary of our Republic, we can point to tangible indications of its growth and vigor, its vastly increased chances of riding whatever storms and upheavals the future may hold in store. The marks have not been evident early from the beginning. It is only towards the completion of its fifth year that they have become obvious for everybody to see for himself.

Our internal security has vastly improved. With the reorganization and increase of our armed forces, domestic communist dissidence has been deprived of its initiative and punch. The trial and conviction of leading members of the Communist politburo according to our constitutional processes have alerted our people to the full significance of an organized plan to destroy democracy in this country.

At the same time, the program of economic rehabilitation for Huk surrenderees and the landless is now making for the return of tranquility and the rise of productivity in old communities and new settlements.

The country's economic outlook is never better in years since liberation. For the first time since 1945, we are enjoying a favorable balance of trade, as figures for January, February, March, April of 1951 show in the aggregate amount of ₱106,500,000. Our exchange reserve has risen from \$220 million in 1949 to \$400 million as of now; and our peso at ₱2.30 to the dollar, including exchange tax, is keeping its rightful position of strength and value.

Our revenue and customs collection for the first 10 months of this fiscal year is already ₱340 million (our biggest in history). With two months more to account for, we expect to beat the estimated target of ₱350 million by a good margin. While we have yet to replenish, the special funds from which we had to draw extraordinary sums to tide us over during our cash stringency, I can now say that we are balancing the budget this year. Undoubtedly public consciousness of honest accountability in the payment of tax obligations, old and new, has increased. It is now evident that our people and our government are one and united, believing together, pushing together.

The rapid and accelerated aid under the ECA program has created new incentives in our agricultural and industrial development. This alone is opening a new avenue in our economic progress.

The current probes and investigations of reported irregularities in various areas of our public life manifest no diminution in our determination and energy to restore and strengthen the integrity of the public service. The results are to be measured not merely by the number of dismissals, convictions, or commitments to jail, but by the new orientation in attitude and the enhanced morale of every J public servant, resulting in greater efficiency, honesty, and effectiveness in the performance of duty.

The controls in our economic activities that have been set up to conserve our foreign exchange, to reduce, our imports, to increase our exports, to widen our self-help and self-dependence take on a symbolic significance that must be made to yield a lasting service to us. They constitute an effective instrument for individual sacrifice and national discipline, for heightening the public feeling on and appreciation of the urgency of individual abnegation and common cooperation to achieve national salvation. In response to the exigencies of new developments at home, and abroad, a call to self-imposition of even greater discipline may arise. Let us hold ourselves ever in readiness to prove our increasing capacity for it. I am very happy to remind our people on this occasion that, as we approach our Republic's fifth milestone, we are no less in full enjoyment of the respect and confidence of p our friends abroad. We have the benefit of more than a If gesture when we get their willing and open testimony that we have been their most devoted ally and friend at home I and abroad. Just this morning many of our boys of the returned triumphant from the battlefield in Korea. We have given eloquent proof of our determination to align ourselves with the free world, and to sustain the responsibility it entails. That our allies reciprocate our loyalty and continue to rely on us is amply shown in the steady assistance we have been getting, and are assured to get in the future—assistance that will help us strengthen our security, regain our tranquillity, and develop our country towards increasing economic sufficiency—that is, to full employment, increased production, and higher living standards for our people.

And so, as we get out of the valley of the shadow, let us keep our sights continually up and high. We are now on the up-grade so to speak. It is up to us now to keep our hand steady, to maintain the balance and proportion that we have so far achieved.

It is not for us to relax now and take it easy. Indeed, we must accelerate our pace, keeping and increasing our momentum. We are lifting an accumulated burden of centuries, and like lifting a big log we have to take advantage of the tempo in the uplift. Our capacity rises in proportion to our efforts not merely to be in trim, but to synchronize our thought and action.

What on other occasions I advanced as a total economic mobilization, I should now make it an appeal for total national mobilization to better insure our permanent national existence. Every element in this our great country must now unremittingly contribute to this national endeavor. The appeal is simple but the response must be great.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). Thirty-second radio chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, broadcast from Malacañan, June 15, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(6), 2843-2845.

Thirty-Third Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino, July 15, 1951

Thirty-Third Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Broadcast from Malacañan, July 15, 1951]

Fellow Countrymen:

Our fifth Independence anniversary has given us opportunity to take an inventory of our assets and liabilities as a nation. It is good to report that our people have come out of the experience deeply reassured. We now have more confidence in our strength and endurance. More than anything else, we are convinced that we know our bearings and that we are steering our way right ahead.

We have to guard, however, against self-satisfaction. We have not moved forward as much as we could have desired and done under normal conditions. We must exert strenuous efforts, considering the magnitude of the monumental tasks still confronting us.

Indeed, as I said before and do not mind saying again, our tasks, far from complete, cannot be completed within the lifetime of this generation. We may allow ourselves the prideful feeling that this generation has been able to do what has been expected of it despite its initial handicaps and limitations. You and I of this generation can be happy that we are turning this country over to the next, clear in our conscience that we have done our best. But we must go further, harder, and deeper than that.

We must, specifically, keep unimpaired for our children the assurance that the sacrifices of our people in the last war have not been in vain and are not to be lightly ignored any arrangement for the peace and stability of our part of the world. Our goal is not the present satisfaction of our material longing, and convenience.

We will resist with all our soul any temptation to turn back on the spirit that has united, and kept our people united, through all the trying vicissitudes of foreign aggression subjection, and abuse. We have evolved a national soul that other peoples have come to respect and honor.

I say that there can be no honor and security in the benefits of any material recovery for our devastated land that are to be purchased by a betrayal of the faith of those who died that we might live as free men.

We are joined with the free world today in resisting aggression. We have become familiar with the fruits of aggression in the destruction, hate, and misery it breeds and leaves in its cruel and bloody trail. We cannot in conscience be a willing party to any transaction that would give it speedy clearance to rear again its ugly head in our midst, by simply writing off its accountability at the behest of a cherished friend. We are not rancorous or revengeful. But we cannot sustain such a callow gesture of false generosity and keep our self-respect.

The lesson of aggression has not come easy to our people for having been its hapless victims. It may seem a light matter to those who can afford to cover it up by the abundance of their material resources and their prodigal expenditure. Not to us, who bear its permanent scars in our soul as a nation. Remember that we have been ravaged, not through our fault but because of our loyalty to a friend and protector.

The lesson of our nation's partial recovery by stern, heroic effort in five years of freedom would be lost on us and the world if we should now be frivolous and careless as to view without protest an arrangement that passes understanding for its insensibility to the justice of our claim as a victim of wanton aggression.

Aggression is aggression under whatever country and flag it is pursued. It will not make for its discouragement and ultimate disappearance for a small and helpless victim to condone the obligations of conviction in the courts and conscience of a just and free community.

In the captive totalitarian world, the rulers make no pretense that they operate on any other principle than that the end justifies the means. Almost surreptitiously it is now asked why the free world should be any the more squeamish.

Our position is not to be viewed in the light of a vengeful exaction of our pound of flesh. We do not rely on a punitive peace to heal an injury reaching into the most intimate depths of our people's spirit.

But we do look for an honest acknowledgment of wrong done, for a manifest disposition to atone in reasonable measure for the gross cruelties and destruction visited upon a small people for their loyalty to another nation that championed a good cause. We look for some testament however modest to affirm genuine moral rebirth and provide against repetition of the tragic experience for us and others similarly situated. Just now we do not see any indication.

We get a strange proposal providing a brash and bland departure in studied silence on, and avoidance of, the moral issue crucial to the settlement of a lasting peace in the hearts of aggressor and victim. We are faced with a lavish solicitude to facilitate not the healing of broken hearts and relations but the restoration of a defeated aggressor's potentials that might be used to dictate to his neighbors.

The proposal is claimed to be a milestone in international reconciliation. It might be. We would not give it serious consideration were it not announced that it carries the approval of no less than the recognized leader of the free world today. It taxes our belief. It fills us with dismay. It conciliates the powerful who flouted the law and the decent instincts of humanity. It insures all possible assistance to the aggressor who now has not long to wait to be able to impose with his wonted assurance. And it rides roughshod over the sensibilities and memories of his mingled victims.

This is a situation that our people must develop the discipline to meet and contain. Our injury has been deep and so is our consequent fear of curious designs to repair it by doles on the side.

If peace is to come and abide with us, and between us and our neighbors, we must look to a fair and firm foundation that meets with free and common acceptance in the conscience of all the peoples concerned, especially in the face of spontaneous recognition and affirmation of readiness to repair within the capacity and limitations of the author of our sufferings.

Fellow countrymen, this we understand for ourselves: We do not propose to sell our heroic heritage short. Without underestimating the judgment of others, we cannot, in the matter of aggression and its accountabilities, disregard our somber experience as a people without being false to ourselves. And we cannot be false to ourselves without being false to our neighbors everywhere.

Our security in this part of the world is intimately tied up with our sense of what is just in the settlement of peace the Far East—peace based on mutual self-respect and not on mathematical calculations of what one can give to the other as material satisfaction for wrongs committed. There are more elevating considerations and motivations that would better secure our neighborly understanding and friendly relations. And we are not wanting in nobility. Personally, I would not allow my children and my people to inherit hate, but I would not disinherit them either of the national self-respect.

We will adhere to this vision. What difficulties this will entail, we may not be able completely to anticipate. We can only rely on the good intentions of real friends and trust to the infinite wisdom of Divine Providence. Certainly, we must support our faith with works and dogged determination.

Let that be our fresh resolve as we begin the sixth year of our Republic.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Thirty-third monthly radio chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, broadcast from Malacañan, July 15, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(7), 3408-3411.

Remarks of President Quirino before taking off for Washington, D. C.

**Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before taking off for Washington, D. C.**

[Delivered at the Manila International Airport, August 27, 1951]

Friends and Fellow Countrymen:

I want to thank you for this enthusiastic send-off. This is the third time that I leave the country ever since I assumed office as Chief Executive, the first, on invitation of President Truman, and the second, to submit myself to a major operation at Johns Hopkins Hospital. This, the third, has more meaning to me than the other two.

My first visit in 1949 was a source of pleasure and a high honor to me and to the country. My second visit in 1950 was both dangerous and risky. Thank God I was able to go through.

On this, my third departure from the country, I must say that the task ahead is as risky as it is delicate, indeed much more delicate because it involves a high diplomatic mission of the state.

In my last radio chat fifteen days ago, I clearly and unequivocally stated the objectives we seek in joining the peace conference in San Francisco as well as in Washington. We have decided that our stand on these objectives would be absolutely national. There being no serious divergence of opinion regarding our higher objectives, I would like to count with your confidence in the ability, patriotism, and foresight of our delegation to said conferences. As they carry with them the name, prestige, and honor of this country, I would like you to trust them while they are away. Any pre-judgment, especially if it be unkind, regarding their success or failure in these conferences, will certainly weaken our position as a nation. I want you to have complete confidence in their good judgment.

I leave for the United States secure in the conviction that our people are united in their confidence and support of my administration in every step taken in connection with treaty arrangements with the United States intended to insure our national security and safeguard our interests in our relations with Japan. For this I am sincerely grateful, for nothing has given me more encouragement and strength in my efforts to protect and advance our people's welfare than the nation-wide endorsement of the policies that have guided me in our negotiations with the American government on Japanese reparations and on the Pacific Pact.

I look forward to my visit in Washington, D. C., as an opportunity for further cementing the bond that ties the American and the Filipino peoples and I shall endeavor to the best of my ability to enhance and strengthen our relations with the great nation with which we have cast our lot in the defense of freedom and democracy, particularly in this part of the world. With our faith in the American people again vindicated by recent events, we can confidently pledge anew, as I hope to do through the signing of the Pacific Pact in Washington, D. C., our continued partnership in America's undertakings to insure peace and security in the Pacific area and make certain that justice shall prevail always.

I need not say that my mission is as delicate as that of our delegation going to San Francisco and Washington, D. C. I am carrying with me the same great measure of responsibility on this trip. The stability and security of our nation is involved in this trip. As on previous occasions, all I ask you is not to rock the boat while I am away and to have trust in me that I will do the right thing for the future security and happiness of our country and people.

The issues that take us to the other side of the ocean are so serious and far-reaching in their effects that they should not be the subject of partisan controversies, particularly while we are engaged in our delicate negotiations. I trust our people will show a united front and lend us their solid support.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). Remarks of President Elpidio Quirino, delivered at the Manila International Airport before taking off for Washington, D. C, Monday, August, 27, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(8), 4070-4072.

Remarks of President Quirino on the signing of the U.S.-P.I. defense pact

**Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the signing of the U.S.-P.I. defense pact**

[Delivered in Washington, D. C., August 30, 1951]

We have witnessed today an act that may be described as the end of the beginning. Here we have set the first milestone on the road towards the enduring security of the Pacific area. I have special reason to rejoice at this moment because it was not so long ago in this same capital, that I took the liberty of proposing the conclusion of a Pacific Security Pact under the initiative of the United States. This is the first fruit of that vision. This is a treaty of mutual defense with unavoidable connotations of military action. Yet it is, in fact, wholly dedicated to peace and to the methods of peace. It means so much to the economic development and happiness of the Filipino people. Here, our two countries pledge ourselves anew to the principle of the Pacific settlement of disputes enshrined in the charter of the United Nations. Here, we have assumed a formal undertaking to assist each other and to stand together in the face of aggression, in the hope that hereafter we may be able to follow undistracted the fruitful pursuits of peace. We have no aggressive aims against anyone. Our purpose is rather to give notice that a potential aggressor must henceforth take due account of our common purpose and united will to act in self defense. From the history of the Filipino people and of our relations with the United States during the past 50 years, nobody can have the slightest doubt about our devotion to freedom and our readiness to share in its defense. On this solemn occasion, Mr. President, may I convey to you, and through you to the American people, the deepest sentiments of goodwill and friendship from the people of the Philippines. This treaty proclaims the sense of unity of our two peoples, and this is a declaration of historic importance. For we established our unity of purpose, not on any consideration of race, creed, or equality of power, but solely on the ground of our common faith in freedom. Though humbled by the great significance of this alliance, the Filipino people are nevertheless proud that our young Republic has merited this recognition of its faith and its courage. Mr. President, I bring to witness, at this signing, our faith in democracy and the courage to defend it with all our strength.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). Remarks of President Quirino on the signing of the U.S.-P.I. defense pact. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(8), 4072.

Mutual Defense Treaty between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America, August 30, 1951

MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Signed at Washington, August 30, 1951.

Note: The Agreement was concurred in by the Senate, S.R. No. 84, May 12, 1952. The Philippine instrument of ratification was signed by the President, August 27, 1952. The Agreement entered into force, August 27, 1952 upon the exchange of ratification between the Parties. It was proclaimed by the President, Proc. No. 341, S. 1952

Reference: This Agreement is also published in II DFA TS No.1, p. 13; 177 UNTS, p. 133; 3 UST 3947 and TIAS 2529. The Presidential proclamation of the Agreement is published in 48 O. G. 4224 (Aug. 1952).

The Parties of this Treaty

Reaffirming their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their desire to live in peace with all peoples and all governments, and desiring to strengthen the fabric of peace in the Pacific area.

Recalling with mutual pride the historic relationship which brought their two peoples together in a common bond of sympathy and mutual ideals to fight side-by-side against imperialist aggression during the last war.

Desiring to declare publicly and formally their sense of unity and their common determination to defend themselves against external armed attack, so that no potential aggressor could be under the illusion that either of them stands alone in the Pacific area.

Desiring further to strengthen their present efforts for collective defense for the preservation of peace and security pending the development of a more comprehensive system of regional security in the Pacific area.

Agreeing that nothing in this present instrument shall be considered or interpreted as in any way or sense altering or diminishing any existing agreements or understandings between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I. The parties undertake, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, to settle any international disputes in which they may be involved by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and endangered and to refrain in their international relation from the of force in any the purposes of the United Nations.

ARTICLE II. In order more effectively to achieve the objective of this Treaty, the Parties separately and jointly by self-help and mutual aid will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack.

ARTICLE III. The Parties, through their Foreign Ministers or their deputies, will consult together from time to time regarding the implementation of this Treaty and whenever in the opinion of either of them the territorial integrity, political independence or security of either of the Parties is threatened by external armed attack in the Pacific.

ARTICLE IV. Each Party recognizes that an armed attack in the Pacific area on either of the Parties would be dangerous to its own peace and safety and declares that it would act to meet the common dangers in accordance with its constitutional processes.

Any such armed attack and all measures taken as a result thereof shall be immediately reported to the Security Council of the United Nations, Such measures shall be terminated when the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to restore and maintain international peace and security.

ARTICLE V. For the purpose of Article IV, an armed attack on either of the Parties is deemed to include an armed attack on the metropolitan territory of either of the Parties, or on the Island territories under its jurisdiction in the Pacific Ocean, its armed forces, public vessels or aircraft in the Pacific.

ARTICLE VI. This Treaty does not affect and shall not be interpreted as affecting in any way the rights and obligations of the Parties under the Charter of the United Nations or the responsibility of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

ARTICLE VII. This Treaty shall be ratified by the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America in accordance with their respective constitutional processes and will come into force when instruments of ratification thereof have been exchanged by them at Manila.

ARTICLE VIII. This Treaty shall remain in force indefinitely. Either Party may terminate it one year after notice has been given to the other party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have signed this Treaty.

DONE in duplicate at Washington this thirtieth day of August, 1951.

For the Republic of the Philippines:

(Sgd.) CARLOS P. ROMULO
(Sgd.) JOAQUIN M. ELIZALDE
(Sgd.) VICENTE J. FRANCISCO
(Sgd.) DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL

For the United States of America:

(Sgd.) DEAN ACHESON
(Sgd.) JOHN FOSTER DULLES
(Sgd.) TOM CONNALLY
(Sgd.) ALEXANDER WILEY

Source: **House of Representatives, Legislative Library**

Comment of President Quirino on President Harry S. Truman's San Francisco address

**Comment
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On President Harry S. Truman's San Francisco address**

[Released on September 4, 1951]

“To peace-loving peoples throughout the world President Truman's speech is most heartening. It is an effective answer to totalitarian aggression stalking in our midst in the Pacific.

“With the inclusion of Japan in the scheme of common defense, nothing can be more reassuring for the consolidation of an enduring peace in our part of the world. It is in this spirit that the Philippines signed the treaty of mutual defense with the United States a few days ago. It is in that same spirit that the Philippines, as I envisioned two years ago, would want to see forged in our area a pact which would bind all liberty-loving peoples to a defense of the common heritage against Communist aggression.

“America has become a happy connecting link among ourselves. Once attained, the Pacific pact, with its concomitant spirit of mutual help and cooperation, will surely rebuild and strengthen the economic fabric of our respective countries, raise the standard of living of our peoples, and provide a new life of substance and contentment among a heretofore disorganized and neglected population of the world.”

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). President Elpidio Quirino issued the following comment on President Harry S. Truman's San Francisco address on September 4, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(9), 4556.

Thirty-Fifth Monthly Radio Chat Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Thirty-Fifth Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Delivered and tape-recorded at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, U. S. A., and broadcast by all Philippine radio Stations, September 15, 1951]

Fellow Countrymen:

I cannot miss my monthly chat with you no matter where I am, precisely at this moment in our history when there is so much to talk about the future and the security of our nation.

During the last two weeks, four significant events have taken place in the United States. These have been epoch-making events not only for the Philippines but for Asia and for the world as a whole. On August 30, the treaty of mutual defense between the United States and the Philippines was signed in Washington. On September 1, a similar treaty was signed in San Francisco between the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. On September 8, the Allied Powers signed the peace treaty with Japan, thus terminating World War II. In the afternoon of the same day, the signing of the security pact between the United States and Japan was the last act in San Francisco, where six years ago, the United Nations was born to promote world peace.

You will look in vain in recent times for a similar ten-day period during which so much history was made. In periods of war and revolution, events that have shaken the world may have occurred in even more rapid succession, but the events that have taken place during a period of ten days in Washington and in San Francisco were unprecedented in that they were entirely in the interest of peace.

Varied interpretations will be given to the real meaning of these historic international covenants. I consider it essential that our people, as lovers of peace, have a complete understanding and faithful interpretation of these treaties, affecting as they do our future and our security. For this purpose, we would perhaps need a great amount of broad-mindedness, vision, and nobility, but certainly more of the sense of reality and a genuine feeling of Christian peace.

Our gravest concern after we achieved our independence has been how to keep our political institutions stable and enduring. We cannot possibly enjoy our freedom and sovereignty without these basic prerequisites and we can only secure these prerequisites if our country is peaceful and relatively free from aggression.

We have made preparations not only for our internal security but for our national defense. To this end, we have entered into a military bases agreement and military assistance pact with the United States, in order to strengthen our economic structure, an indispensable requirement for our people's peace and contentment. We also made arrangements for mutually beneficial economic relations with the United States.

We have gone quite far in achieving these objectives, despite all odds and misgivings at home and abroad.

Our internal security has been greatly enhanced by the reorganization of our armed forces and our unabated campaign against the subverters of our government.

Our economic outlook has become more reassuring after a re-examination of our economic and financial structure with the aid of experts from the United States, now well-known as the Bell Mission, and with the implementation of our new program of total economic mobilization with the assistance of another United States agency, the Economic Cooperation Administration.

Our progress in these lines of endeavor in recent months has been so great that we can now say that a favorable atmosphere for our steady economic advance and political stability pervades the country.

But in view of the still unsettled world situation and the threats of aggression that may mar our greatest efforts and arrest the steady march of our country towards economic and external security, we immediately saw the imperative need of insuring our tranquillity of mind so that our people could concentrate their attention on the vast work of nation-building.

So, two years ago, we thought of providing for the creation of this feeling of security in our midst. We started it in the Senate of the United States in 1949 and followed it up in the Baguio Conference of 1950. But it was only two weeks ago that we could see the framework of that security laid in Washington and followed in San Francisco a week later.

Since the inauguration of our Republic five years ago no public act has impressed or moved me more than the conclusion of the treaty of mutual defense with the United States of America. It was as if on the day of signing, as President Truman and I witnessed the new flowering of the historic friendship between the American and Filipino peoples, a heavy burden of fear had been lifted from Filipino shoulders and we could look to the future unafraid. The signing of that treaty marked the culmination of fifty years of Philippine-American relations, beginning with the Philippine Revolution and the Spanish-American War down through the Jones Law and the Tydings-McDuffie Act, to the Pacific War and the grant of Philippine Independence.

We could well believe that the hand of destiny has moved with immutable logic within the framework of our just and legitimate national aspirations. The Philippine-United States mutual defense treaty has become the cornerstone of a system of collective security in the Pacific area, a system which, in the face of almost universal scepticism, we first advocated in 1949. I know that you, my fellow countrymen, must share with me the deep sense of gratification which we have a right to feel as we witness the speedy growth of an idea, the seed which we first planted early in the season. On this happy occasion, so rich in the possibilities of further achievement, I pledge anew from afar my whole strength and the policies of my administration to the enduring welfare and security of our country.

If the spirit of these recent events in the United States is translated into action, we shall have discouraged aggression, organized security and, what is more, at long last we shall have peace in the Pacific. For, what is the real meaning of the Washington and San Francisco performances but the formation of a veritable new union of the democracies for the preservation of world peace?

But these treaties for the Philippines have only started us on the road to peace, prosperity, and stability. We have yet to work and achieve these objectives. We cannot have peace without being at peace. Peace is not an abstract; it must be practiced. We must begin in our midst, in our own soil, in our homes, in our farms, in our factories.

The methods of peace are varied, but it is constructive peace that we need most; peace that produces, that gives contentment, that brings happiness, that guarantees individual security of life. We must endeavor to secure this kind of peace.

My fellow countrymen, with a voice that may scarcely reach you at this moment, but with all the force of a fervent prayer, may I renew my oft-repeated appeal that you all, whether in the city or in the outlying districts, in the mountain fastnesses or in the swamps, help accelerate the clearing of our countrysides of the lawless elements and lead our country to a normal life of constructive peace.

In an epoch such as this our children cannot wish for more.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). President Quirino's 35th monthly radio chat originally delivered and tape-recorded at the President's room in the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, U. S. A. Broadcast by all Philippine radio Stations, September 15, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(9), 4556-4559.

Comment of President Quirino on the speech of Governor Thomas Dewey

**Comment
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
On the speech of Governor Thomas Dewey before the American bar association convention**

[Delivered in New York City, September 19, 1951]

“We, in the Philippines, are deeply gratified by the growing interest of the American people in the development of a collective security-system for the Pacific area, as it is in Asia and the Pacific that communist influence and dominion are more greatly feared.

“In the summer of 1949, in an address before the United States Senate, I took the liberty of suggesting that the United States take the initiative in the conclusion of a Pacific security pact analogous to the North Atlantic pact. That was nearly a year before the communist aggression in Korea.

“Today the growing menace of communism no longer leaves anyone in doubt as to the urgent need of taking prompt and effective action to combat that menace.

“The conclusion within a period of ten days of separate mutual defense treaties between the United States and the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand, and Japan is aimed at this objective.

“As far as the Philippines is concerned, we are satisfied that the mutual defense pact which we signed with the United States on August 30, 1951 contains all the guarantees we require for the security of our country. As a follow-up of the broader objective, however, I instructed my secretary of foreign affairs, General Carlos P. Romulo, to sound out the interested governments at the recent San Francisco conference. The report he has submitted is encouraging.

“If it is felt that a mutual defense alliance of the Pacific would, from the American point of view, afford greater overall security for the free world in that vital area, then the Philippine government would be ready to review the entire situation having due regard for the attitude of the other countries concerned, in particular toward the implications of the entry of Japan into the proposed collective security arrangement.

“Governor Dewey’s speech is a bold projection in public of a revolutionary idea. Its greatest merit lies in the fact that his proposal is based on his actual observation of what we, in the Far East and in Southeast Asia are doing to fight communism.

“Referring to the unremitting warfare which the Philippines and other countries are waging within their own borders against communist treason and armed guerrillas, he aptly says that ‘having seen it you cannot fail to gain a profound respect for those who are in the frontlines of freedom, all over the Pacific.’

“The frontlines are indeed in the Pacific area and we in the Philippines are even now doing our part of the fighting both at home against the communist guerrillas and abroad against the communist aggressors in Korea.

“We believe that this, is the kind of faith and self-help on which a United States-initiated plan for a Pacific collective security system, must be built.”

New York Governor Thomas Dewey’s speech on September 19 before the American bar association in convention at the Waldorf Astoria hotel, demanding immediate formation of a Pacific defense alliance which is exactly what President Quirino has been continuously advocating since 1949, said in part:

“If we joined with the free nations of Asia as we have with those of Europe, we would have the majestic power of more than 800,000,000 persons armed in common defense. If the treaty should be successfully negotiated, America would be part of the most wonderful alliance on earth. With such tremendous might on the side of freedom, it would be more than any tyrant would ever dare attack.”

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). President Quirino, commenting on the speech of Governor Thomas Dewey before the American bar association convention in New York City on September 19 issued the following statement. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 47(9)*, 4559-4560.

Broadcast of President Quirino on the eve of Election Day

Broadcast of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines On the eve of Election Day

[Delivered on November 12, 1951]

Fellow Countrymen:

Tomorrow we shall exercise our prerogative as free citizens of a democracy.

Sovereignty in our conception of democracy resides in the will of the people. Ours will be another opportunity tomorrow to express that will.

Therefore, I urge every qualified citizen to cast his vote and cast it as conscientiously as God gives him the judgment to value his right and to understand the issues involved in the exercise of that right.

The government has taken every precaution to maintain order on election day and assure the security of voters and election officers as well. It has made every provision to insure peaceful balloting, honest canvassing of votes, and safe custody of the ballot boxes.

The interest of all elements, outside the confirmed enemies and saboteurs of our democratic system, cannot be greater than that of the government itself in seeing to it that the precautionary measures are effectively enforced.

But the success of all these measures ultimately depends on the cooperation of all our people. The determination of our government officers to preserve the peace and the purity of the ballot must be coupled with the militant concern for free and honest elections on the part of our citizenry. I must therefore, appeal to all to be calm, composed, and peaceful themselves.

We must not be influenced by the violent political rabies that usually infects our body politic in every election. We must not be swayed or dragged by venomous, vitriolic, malicious, and vicious language. These are signs of desperation and defeat. We are not desperate nor prostrate. We have no reason to be, in this our era of constructive peace.

Tomorrow should not only be a legal holiday but a holy day of fulfillment of our civic and patriotic obligation. I expect that our people will be ready to prove the discipline that lies at the base of our loyalty to our democratic institutions. And we must all go to the polls in peace of mind, body, and soul. Let us have peaceful elections tomorrow.

We must keep our opportunity open to strive periodically for the people's mandate to public stewardship in the most orderly manner. On the merits of our leadership and record of accomplishment, we can thus continue at regular intervals to have the chance to submit to the people's decision our bid for the privilege of service, as our democratic system requires.

At a public rally the other day, I had occasion to enumerate the accomplishments of the present administration, the fruits of concentrated positive work and determined effort especially during the last two years.

In addition, I shall not make a superficial attempt to show the results of our constant battle against graft and corruption. The record of prosecution and conviction of public servants since I waged this relentless, endless, and thankless war upon my assumption of office will show them. The sanctimonious and melodramatic finger-lifters

should examine their own hands and their own conscience. Primarily on this issue and on peace and order the people gave me the national mandate in 1949.

Nor do I need to emphasize our internal and external war against the enemies of our freedom. Our brothers are still in the battlefields of Korea, heroically fighting with the forces of the free world that our sovereignty may not be threatened, that we may continue to be peaceful and free.

Our vigorous efforts to clean our countrysides of elements that have been robbing us of our internal peace, of our lives, of your properties—the subverters of our government and free institutions—are too well known. It must be fresh in your mind that what we merely suspected to be a camouflaged conspiracy to commit sedition and terrorism before and immediately after the elections of 1949 has been confirmed by the numerous convictions of Communist followers in our midst, members of the Politburo of the Communist Party who were abetted, staunchly protected, and defended in court by no less than the prominent leaders of the opposition, some of whom are now charged by their own peers to have contributed money and weapons to start an uprising in their native province.

I would simply say that we have been able to banish fear from our midst and secure internal safety, and that we achieved external security.

In a nutshell, two simple thoughts should guide our citizenry tomorrow in passing judgment as they cast their verdict at the polls. These are: Shall we continue the increasing fulfillment of our constructive program of nation-building as evidenced by positive results under the present administration? Or shall we allow an uncreative opposition to arrest and destroy what we are building in its desire to deliver us to a totalitarian power?

The present administration has been given the privilege of service for four years. We are in the midst of that term.

Upon my induction into office two years ago, I said: “You elected me because you want me to serve the country well. Help me always to do so. Give me your light when my way is dark; give me strength when you see me weaken. Give me courage always to do the right thing. Help me build for our people a new reputation for honesty and fair dealing. Help me establish a new integrity in our thinking, in our words, in our deeds.”

Despite the confusion and dark forebodings, not to say much ill-wishing of envious elements, our people and our friends abroad have heeded my appeal. Divine Providence, too, has been kind.

I have concisely presented the other day and today the fruits of our labors during the last two years. All I ask you now is to be given a fair chance, a sincere opportunity and solid, cooperation so that in harmony and decided effort the trust reposed in me and in the administration in 1949 may be carried on to full fruition.

I ask you all to go to the polls. Go unafraid. Cast your vote intelligently. Exercise your right conscientiously with clear vision, mindful of your country’s future, and with the interests of your children uppermost. Remember that politics is not a mere game of win or loss, of simply giving a chance to others to serve the country, of inflicting revenge on those who have injured us, or of atoning for past sins.

Tomorrow you will decide what kind of administration to uphold, maintain, and preserve in this country or what to advocate in replacement. It will either be that which, with positive leadership, has provided you internal security and protection from external aggression, broadened the basis for your country’s cooperation with the free world, enhancing its name and prestige, expanded your agricultural and industrial development, securing up to this day no less than \$52,000,000 ECA aid for this purpose, solved your recurrent school and rice crises, balanced your trade and strengthened your finances, reconstructed and provided additional public permanent improvements, established hydraulic and numerous irrigation systems, improved public health, housing the poor and increasing living standards—in short, achieved social, economic, internal and external security and established a respected international standing; or that which, in its attempt to establish a new regime inspired by alien design, has sown the seed of confusion and victimized our innocent populace in wholesale massacre and pillage and untold inhuman acts, subverting the very government that you and I established on July 4, 1946!

The answer that you will give tomorrow will show the new mettle of the Filipino people.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). The President's broadcast on the eve of Election Day, November 12, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(11), 5585-5587.

Thirty-seventh monthly radio chat of President Quirino

Thirty-seventh Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Broadcast from his study at the Guest House, Baguio, November 16, 1951]

Beloved Countrymen:

I am specially glad to have my radio chat for this month fall on my birthday.

I know of no happier occasion to share our common gratification over the freedom and orderly conduct of our last election. Indeed, there is no greater and more meaningful event to report at this moment. I look upon it as the one memorable gift from our people that I want to cherish of this day.

Once again, and in a fashion that no one anywhere can question, we have given a most impressive affirmation of the vigor and validity of our democracy. That is the important thing—besides which winning an election or losing one is a mere incident.

At the risk of stating the obvious, it is good to remind ourselves that democracy does not mean merely the right to express one's will freely and peacefully. Of course we have a right to have our voice heard, but not in a manner to drown the voice of others. We have a right to think one way but not to deprive others to think the other way. We have a right to act any way we please, but not to the prejudice of others who wish to act differently. We have a right to enjoy and be happy but not at the expense of others' enjoyment and happiness.

In other words, we must exercise our freedom to think and act freely with prudence. That freedom is not absolute but qualified, disciplined, restrained, and regulated so that the right of others to enjoy the same freedom may be respected.

The practice of democracy sets the rule that the will of the majority should prevail over that of the minority. This again has its peculiar meaning which should be understood by every unit of human society.

Many a time the voice of the majority is indoctrinated, and regimented by a well organized minority, making the majority rule a tool to dictate upon an unwary majority. Thus, the organized minority becomes an oligarchy.

When this minority, with or without convincing the majority succeeds through its efficient organization to impose upon the majority, it becomes dictatorial and totalitarian—exactly the opposite of democracy.

The democracy that we have founded in the Philippines is based upon the spontaneous, unregimented but intelligent expression of each individual's will, the combined expression of which represents the true will of the greater number for the guidance and benefit of all. It is a democracy that intelligently evaluates men and events, analyzes the measures adopted and searches the popular benefits accruing therefrom in every national undertaking. This is the democracy that we seek to nurture and perpetuate. It denies the monopoly of civic virtues by any individual or group of individuals, as well as the enjoyment by a privileged few of the country's wealth and power.

As a public servant I have continuously consecrated my efforts to this kind of democracy irrespective of circumstance or situation.

As I reach on this day a new milestone in my life, our country also reaches a new milestone in its electoral history in the practice of that democracy. I recall with great satisfaction two great events this year in our political life which show the vigor and stability of our democratic institutions.

The first happened in the last session of Congress. It was at the height of great political tension and partisan dissension in the Congress, particularly in the Senate, in connection with the deliberations over vital legislations affecting the permanent interests of the country.

The members of our Congress in that session finally rose above party interests and remembered only their patriotic duties. They laid aside partisan and even personal considerations to protect and promote the country's welfare. They found their way to agreement crystallizing their will and wisdom in the passage of important substantial legislations that now guarantee our economic stability. It was a historical test of a vigorous democratic system patriotically sensitive to urgent national imperatives.

The second event, in itself a political milestone, was the successful conduct of the last election. It proved the most orderly and peaceful we have ever seen since we held general elections in this country. In that most passionately contested election, winner and loser alike can rightfully claim a share in the common victory—that of democracy.

The election which provided our people another opportunity to express freely and honestly their will shows that democracy really works on our soil: It will stay. It will continue and survive because we have the will, the determination, and the guts to practice it no matter what party or political fortunes are involved or affected.

In perspective, after the passions of the electoral campaign die down, and we calmly appreciate our strides in democratic practice, evidence of our political maturity, there is that shining fact for which we all can join in a common worship in praise of the Almighty—that we have justified our existence as a democracy.

So, as head of this nation, I am filled today to overflowing with gratitude. God has kept our people through these most difficult years. He has crowned our constructive efforts with a great sense of responsibility that bridges our progress to fresh fulfillment. I pray on this day that Divine Providence may continue to guide and sustain me insofar as the popular will has assigned me a part in pushing those efforts.

The faith and courage of my fellow countrymen are all I need to give me the necessary Incentive and vigor to do my part. I have no other aspiration but to remain worthy of their faith. And I can have no better wish, no greater resolve, as I enter upon another year of public service.

To all who on this day have been most generous in their greetings and good wishes I tender my deepest appreciation. They help me immensely to face the second half of my administration with greatly enhanced confidence.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). President Elpidio Quirino's thirty-seventh monthly radio chat, broadcast from his study at the Guest House, Baguio, November 16, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(11), 5588-5590.

Remarks of President Quirino at the inauguration ceremonies of Sharp and Dohme

**Extemporaneous Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the inauguration ceremonies of Sharp and Dohme**

[Delivered on November 24, 1951]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am afraid I am being put to the test again as to whether I can talk or not. When I accepted the invitation to this pharmaceutical establishment, I never thought that I would be asked to speak. As a matter of fact, I am tired of speaking. But I can't resist the temptation to say a few words after observing the newly constructed building and the functions of the establishment.

I have gone from, one department to another, and if there were other departments I would have gladly gone over them despite the fact that in its inauguration I am supposed to be only the centerpiece of the ceremonies.

This evening, I was quite impressed by the manner in which this industrial establishment has been operating. I think five, ten, or fifteen years hence, this day will be remembered as one of the most memorable days in our country because of the many advantages this company has brought to the Philippines. I am sure it will partly solve our unemployment problem, give us technical advisers for similar establishments throughout the country, and turn in sufficient income that we badly need. But most important of all, the Philippines has been discovered industrially.

We didn't know we were going to establish so many factories until we could induce and encourage enough people to invest here and explore all our possibilities. For the last five years, we have exerted great efforts to attract the attention of investors so that they would come and help us develop our country industrially. We have succeeded in attracting some people from outside with a view to establishing gradually in the Philippines industrial plants of different kinds.

Up to July 1, 1950, alone some 70 corporations had been registered for the purpose of exploiting new industries. From July 1 to October 31 this year, despite troubles arising from political campaigns, no less than 70 corporations were registered. This is a good sign for our country. It is a strong evidence of the increasing confidence our friends abroad have in our future, financial and industrial.

This pharmaceutical company in the Philippines is an inspiration. It is a new factory which I hope will greatly benefit the consumers by reducing the prices of pharmaceutical products and will not attempt to compete with our own local producers so as to give them also a chance to exist side by side with it.

Gentlemen, you are welcome to our country. Any such company as this establishment will always be welcome here. Of course, we need your cooperation in making this country live and at the same time fortify the financial and economic situation for the mutual benefit of this country and the United States.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1951). Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the inauguration ceremonies of Sharp and Dohme, November 24, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(11), 5591.

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino before the NALATROA Convention

Extemporaneous Remarks of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines Before the NALATROA Convention

[Delivered at the Manila Hotel, November 29, 1951]

Mr. Toastmaster and Friends:

Before I forget it, I wish to inform you that just before I left the Palace to come and join you here, I signed an executive order proclaiming a Land Transportation Week beginning today to commemorate your convention. (*Applause.*)

This is not a mere gesture. It is a reiteration of my interest in the land transportation business. I think it is now safe to reveal that during the Japanese occupation I organized a land transportation company to cover the whole Island of Luzon. My purpose was not merely to derive profit from it. I had two other objects. One was to have an excuse for not accepting a government position during the occupation. I was offered several positions) the last one was to be head of the KALIBAPI organization, and the only good excuse I could think of for not accepting the offer after several attempts was that I was rendering a public service with the organization of the land transportation company.

The other purpose was some of the patriotic people who were organizing the underground movement needed transportation facilities. We thought that by organizing the transportation companies in Luzon we could have a more effective and systematic means of providing facilities "for the underground forces in many places in Luzon.

But more important than a mere excuse not to serve the government under the Japanese regime and to provide in the most secret manner transportation for the guerrillas was my desire to provide the people with the means of transportation commensurate with their needs and capacity for utilizing it in their respective communities.

I have long felt the need for this organization because our transportation companies have seen fit, even before the war, to engage in cut-throat competition. I thought then, and I still think now, perhaps with better reason that today the necessity is even greater to distribute our land transportation facilities so as to serve best the interests of each community and at the same time save capital, equipment, and energy to enable each company to survive and the public to continue enjoying the use of a cheaper, more efficient, and more steady land transportation.

I am very much elated to hear that today you have started forming something like a research into the necessity of distributing equitably and adequately and more profitably and steadily these transportation facilities to our people. We need such research.

Heretofore, we have a very peculiar practice in our country. When some of our countrymen believe that there is a bright future in one line of activity—industrial, agricultural, or otherwise,—everybody rushes into that and the industry becomes so crowded that cut-throat competition ensues.

When one company starts a shoe business believing that it is lucrative, and has succeeded in securing bids to supply some of the needs of the army, which provides ample opportunity for the steady growth and development of that company, another firm is immediately organized to compete with the one previously established. Then others feel encouraged to follow suit in the belief that they, too, are more influential in securing contracts with the army. The result is keen competition.

Take for instance the manufacture of nails, which is a recent industry in this country. When everybody saw that a nail factory would be profitable, somebody conceived the idea of establishing a nail factory similar to the one owned

by the government which was a going concern Then another factory sprang up followed by others. Today, we have no less than half a dozen nail factories, The result is that they will soon be engaged in a ruinous competition.

What has happened in the nail industry has happened in the land transportation business. Many times in my travels in Luzon, in the Visayas, and in Mindanao I saw jeeps, buses, and automobiles, crowding out one another in the streets. They were wasting gasoline, oil, money, and energy in their attempt to compete, to down one another.

There seems to be a great need for you to organize yourselves so that only those with sufficient capital and facilities to offer continuous service could be in the field. The others who are not in a position to give efficient, adequate, and clean service should be advised to cease operating so that only those who can render such service may continue.

I, therefore, congratulate you on the idea you launched this noon to create a sort of research group to determine the quantity and quality of the units that will be employed in your land transportation business for each community. It is wise for you to do so at once so as to explore the possibilities of exploiting the name business that you have already established and prevent others from exposing themselves to the unnecessary waste of energy and capital.

If I have come here this afternoon, it was due to an urgent desire to give you the necessary incentive and assurance that the government is ready to help you in your discussion. We must revise our system of handling land transportation and make it conform with our growth, progress, and development.

I have seen many land transportation companies, all kinds of operators in the field, not only here but abroad. I have noticed that only those companies which have good equipment, clean and well protected taxis and jeeps, well uniformed operators and drivers, as well as properly behaved attendants and collectors, are better patronized. Courtesy and cleanliness seldom fail to attract and increase patronage.

You can offer cheaper transportation but ordinarily people want something better in terms of service that is elevating to their person, service that will enhance their comfort, safety, and personal interests when they travel. So I recommend that from now on you pay more attention to the orderly, pleasing, and efficient operation of your units. I recommend that your drivers be properly dressed and that your attendants be courteous and presentable. Do not expose your passengers to unnecessary hardships or accidents. Such care will enable your company to acquire good reputation and people will have confidence in your drivers and conductors, and will patronize you more.

My friends, this is not just an ordinary layman's observation. It is the result of the observation of one who has seen how the transportation business has worked in the Philippines and abroad. I wish you would do your utmost to avoid unnecessary competition because in the long run it is ruinous. There is nothing more degenerating than ruinous competition among yourselves. If you want to avoid this, you must distribute adequately your respective units in your communities. As I said before, I wish to inject encouragement and to inspire you to have a more systematic way of exploiting your business so that you and your respective communities may derive greater benefit from your efficient transportation facilities.

I invite you to concentrate your attention on our speedy and accelerated development as a country. Our country does not need to change officials as frequently as the laws so provide. As a matter of fact, one of the greatest deterrents to the speedy growth and development of our country is the frequency of elections. When one is elected today, he thinks of being elected two or four years hence. When he is elected to a position, he asks himself: "Who were my leaders yesterday? Will they be my leaders tomorrow?" And so he conducts himself in a manner that will prejudice his interests as well as those of the country.

Our enjoyment of democratic privileges is no longer in an experimental stage. But how have we reacted to our new life after so many years of dependency when we were not able to have the opportunity to choose our own leaders? Today we have complete freedom to choose our leaders. And so eager are we to react that there is a mad scramble to show what democracy means, some of us going to the extent of abusing what democracy is really meant for.

Democracy is not complete freedom. Democracy is a conscientious exercise of that freedom limited in a manner by the rights of others who want to enjoy those same rights and privileges. There is something of restraint in the

exercise of one's rights and freedom. It requires training and discipline. Perhaps it will take years before such traits grow in us and become part of our flesh, blood, and soul. Fortunately, we have shown eloquent evidence of this quality in the last, elections. But for these changes which occupy periodically the attention of the country, we would be running now our constructive activities.

It is not only the frequency of elections which is occupying the minds of the political leaders and almost everyone. It is also the menace to the countrysides, the menace which you all know. The transportation business should be better knit and more compact in order to contribute materially to the elimination of their menace which is a deterrent to the natural growth and development of all our industries. I refer to the dissident problem. I know that some of you have even been threatened to accept free of charge passengers who are members of this band. You have been compelled even to cater to them, to provide them with quarters, material help, and sometimes protection not because of your desire to do so, but because you have been forced to yield.

Now you should have the courage and the civic spirit to help the government identify who among your passengers are dissidents. You have to exercise your duty in order to be able to help clean the country of this pernicious and subversive element. We need to concentrate our attention on this problem because our children may not be what we want them to be if we allow these people to enslave us and perhaps annihilate our rights as a free people.

My dear friends, I want to make this emphatic appeal: if you wish to enjoy your rights, to have good roads and bridges, and comfortable facilities for the operation of your units, you, too, must contribute with your civic valor so that the government may be able to clean the countrysides and you can freely operate to your advantage and profit. (*Applause.*)

I repeat, the great need of the country today is the acceleration of constructive activities. We have constructive programs of development sponsored by the government, and others, by private entities. It is necessary to synchronize the activities of our government with those of private enterprises in order to make our country enduring and to permit us to continue enjoying our freedom.

And you who have the courage to move freely from corner to corner, day and night, in the city and outside, will be greatly benefited if our land is peaceful, tranquil, and orderly. It is you, therefore, who have the principal interest in contributing to the government all your efforts in order to solve our peace and order problem in a satisfactory way.

I hope this convention will be able to systematize the distribution of land transportation facilities to revitalize your business in order to stabilize it, and to render service in an efficient and dignified way, by providing units with clean cars, courteous and helpful personnel, and by keeping everything clean and pleasant.

I was in France in 1947 when she was not yet reconstructed as a result of the war. As soon as I reached Paris, I saw shabby taxicabs, old model automobiles, crowded traffic. I saw the way in which transportation was operating, and how the people went from corner to corner without much regulation because they seemed bewildered, looking as if they knew not where to go. I said, "France is still bewildered * * *."

So when a man comes to the Philippines and sees that there is smooth traffic here, good cars and taxicabs, orderly people, clean and respectful personnel, and notice that we are now cleaning rubbles in order to make our boulevards beautiful and gay, he gets the impression that ours is really a civilized country. And who are praised by that? Not you alone, but your country.

My friends, if you are to succeed at all, there must be equal distribution of your transportation units, adoption of standard fares consistent with your necessities and the capacity of the people to pay, and provision for clean, decent transportation facilities. This will mean greater benefits to you and to all.

I hope that this convention will redound to our benefit and will mark a milestone in our economic and industrial progress. Thank you very much.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino before the NALATROA Convention at the Manila Hotel, November 29, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(11), 5592-B-5592-F.

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Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino in honor of the delegates to the International Council of Christian Churches Conference

**Extemporaneous Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines**

At the tea he gave in honor of the delegates to the International Council of Christian Churches Conference

[Delivered at Malacañan Palace, December 1, 1951]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I appreciate your courtesy call this afternoon and the opportunity you have given me to say something to you in the same spirit which brought you here together.

During the last few years, especially after of the Philippines, different missions have the liberation come to this country to hold conferences in Baguio, making that city an international center in the Far East. I have made available to you the Mansion House for your conference.

I have been receiving mission after mission ever since I assumed office. Even previous to that time during the incumbency of the late President Roxas we had received all sorts of missions: civic missions, charity missions, economic missions, diplomatic missions, and political missions. But this is the first time that a well known Christian organization has convened in the City of Manila. Of all these missions, to me there is nothing more lasting in its effects than that which has brought you here.

Economic missions have been sent here not only to make surveys of the economic possibilities of this country but also to prepare us for future participation in international councils. Political missions have been sent here in an effort to establish closer understanding among, and mutual protection of, the countries in this part of the world, and especially for the purpose of finding a common ground of action to promote agricultural, economic, and social development in the Far East. Diplomatic missions have also come here in order to establish better understanding regarding the functions of the government and to coordinate international functions which have direct bearing on the world adjustment after the last World War.

This mission, a spiritual one, as I have just said, has more far reaching effects because it is going to affect the life and soul of each country represented here. I understand that 12 nations are represented in your conference. I am very much pleased to extend the cordial welcome of this country to you all especially to those who have had no occasion to visit us in the past, and more especially to the representative of Japan, which country had differences of attitude with us, and which had caused many of the great sufferings in this country. I am very much pleased to welcome them because I want them to learn more of the qualities of our people and the spiritual quality of this country.

Somebody mentioned to me that one of your delegates had the same experience as I during the last World War, losing immediate members of his family—his wife and three children—exactly the same number as those I lost in the last World War, besides several other members of my family who were caught in the cross-fire of the American liberating forces in the City of Manila.

If I had seen a Japanese immediately after the liberation, perhaps I would have swallowed him alive. But thinking deeply and considering our situation, our close proximity with Japan, and the natural relationship we should have as neighbors, I lift my eyes to see farther. I consider not only the future of my family but that of my country. Because

we cannot transfer the Philippines from the Pacific to the Atlantic nor anywhere else nor can we move Japan to any other place, we cannot help but be neighbors; and because perhaps we are influenced by the same affinity, not exactly in race, but in aspirations to live our lives as Orientals, I have to look farther into the future.

Inasmuch as the Master has put us together and our people will live together and our children and our children's children will some day come side by side again, I don't want our children to inherit the hate that had been temporarily engendered in those days of torture, in those dark days before the liberation of the City of Manila. I have been waiting for an opportunity to express our friendship to Japan as well as to the others who had cooperated with her during those bloody times. Were it not for the fact that there is Someone on high to look up to, I could never afford to have a noble heart for our neighbor.

Not only officially but personally, I want to assure our friends, especially those from Japan, that following the example of the Lord, we cannot afford to nurture for an indefinite period that feeling of hate, that feeling of resentment, that negative spirit towards our neighbors because as long as we believe there is a Power on high we elevate to Him all our sufferings to) show the nobility and dignity of our people. The Japanese people can be sure that as far as we are concerned there is nothing to fear as we harbor no feeling or spirit of revenge.

My friends, this is a sort of personal digression from the few observations that I wanted to make on the occasion of your visit.

Those different missions I mentioned earlier which had come to the Philippines perhaps had returned home with beneficial results in the promotion of economic understanding, political cooperation, and mutual protection in the future. But there is one great thing that occupies our mind: to make the country safe for liberty and freedom.

We in the Far East are menaced by a common enemy. I do not appeal only to the sects you represent here. I appeal to all those who believe in the existence of God. The time has come for us to pull together, whether Protestants or Catholics or any other denomination, because humanity is menaced, not one religion alone. We all have to cooperate to check the southward movement of our Red enemy, and try to implant in each jurisdiction that we represent, a feeling of security for our democratic institution. Our neighbors who want to follow that way of life, should consolidate themselves and prevent further destruction of democratic ideals which are in keeping with the teachings of Christ. I hope that we shall be able to stem the tide of Communist threat to the world.

I invite you, therefore, to pay special attention to this problem confronting the whole world, and particularly the Philippines today. We are actually engaged in actual warfare against representatives of this menace on this soil. Of course we have been able to grapple with them on the open field, but there are still many lurking in the dark, in the mountain fastnesses and ravines, people who still believe in the domination of force in order to compel us to follow a regimented life. I want you to cooperate with us and with the whole world. And when you leave the Philippines, I wish you would carry with you the confidence in the sincerity of our efforts to check Communism. We hope for your continued development so that when we meet again here or in the other world, we can say that we have done our job well. I thank you.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). Extemporaneous remarks of President Elpidio Quirino at the tea he gave in honor of the delegates to the International Council of Christian Churches Conference, Malacañan Palace, December 1, 1951. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(12), 6085-6087.

Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the luncheon he gave in honor of U. S. Vice President and Mrs. Barkley at Malacañan Palace, December 3, 1951

Extemporaneous remarks of the President at the luncheon he gave in honor of U. S. Vice President and Mrs. Barkley at Malacañan Palace, December 3, 1951

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are very happy today to have with us the most popular couple of the United States—Vice President and Mrs. Barkley.

For a long time during the past two years, national attention of the United States as well as international attention has been focussed on the movements of Vice-President Barkley. I was myself attracted by his interesting political and social career, so much so that when I saw him in 1949 in Washington we succeeded in threshing out our common problems.

We tried to work out a way by which we could console ourselves and be happy once again.

I remember very distinctly the many anecdotes that I learned from him and I had occasion to repeat them on my return to the Philippines. But I must confess that up to now I have not been able to match his long and interesting repertoire of short stories. Evidently, he has got Abraham Lincoln in him. Abe Lincoln, I just learned this morning, happened to be one of those well known wits of his time. As a matter of fact, he was described as such in “The Beacon of the White House.” It was the secret of his public career that his good humor had disarmed many of his political enemies and encouraged many of his friends.

Vice-President Barkley and Abe Lincoln, having been born in Kentucky, seem to have the same line of thinking and the same sense of humor. Both have succeeded in making life happy and pleasant.

I remember one incident when Lincoln was new at the White House. A close friend of his visited him and went directly to his room. He saw President Lincoln shining his shoes and told him, “Mr. President, are you shining your own shoes?” Lincoln got up and said, “Yes, and whose shoes am I going to shine?”

To this day we can trace Lincoln’s wit and humor through his successors. I do not say that someday Vice-President Barkley will succeed Lincoln because he comes from that same wonderful and pleasant region. But I do say that he has been able to follow in the footsteps of President Lincoln, because from Chicago Lincoln went to Illinois. Vice-President Barkley from Kentucky also went to Chicago and found there a blessed partner.

I think he has come all the way across the Pacific, going even to the battleground in Korea, in an effort not only to acquaint himself with the conditions obtaining in the Orient, but perhaps with the secret idea of giving me advice on matrimonial problems. At least he was once a widower, so I expect him to give me some good pointers on what to do in order to be able to follow his good example and thus make the last few days of my life happier and more cheerful.

According to him, he had to make a long trip from Washington to Chicago to find a partner. For my part, I had to make two long trips in 1947 and 1950, going from state to state, from Washington to Europe and back, but up to now have not found one. I think if Vice-President Barkley cannot give me advice I shall seek some suggestion from Mrs. Barkley.

Vice President and Mrs. Barkley, you have come to the Philippines just at the right moment to inspire us to continue the pleasant relations existing between the United States and the Philippines. Your continuing interest in Philippine affairs and your pleasant association with the Filipino people as well as your determination to help us in every way have strengthened our conviction that American-Filipino friendship will continue to the end of time.

You have extended to us help, you have extended to us military assistance, you have extended to us economic assistance under the ECA, and you have given us all the moral support and encouragement that we need to make this country stronger and more stable, in spite of the predictions some people have been making since the inauguration of the Government of the Republic in 1946.

This time you have come to cement our friendship; you have come to humanize that relationship. That is something that will make our relations more pleasant and more binding still because human feelings bind souls closer.

We welcome you to the Philippines. We should like to open our country to you for your observation and study so that you may be able to get all the facts that you will need in order to handle properly the problems that may confront you regarding our mutual relations. But your sojourn is so brief that it does not even afford us an opportunity to extend our hospitality outside of a few places. We hope, however, that you and Mrs. Barkley will come back some day and that you will give us ample time to take you around so that you may see more of our people and our land.

It is my hope that during your short stay here, all that you had been thinking when you were in the United States regarding the external and internal protection of this country will inspire you to greater efforts and you will be able to make the American people and the American government realize the necessity of maintaining closer relations with our people whose cause you have supported.

We are grateful to you for your visit. You have not made any announcement of your coming but I do hope that when you come again you will give us sufficient time to prepare and open wider the heart and soul of our people to you and the American people.

Welcome again. . .

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Remarks of President Quirino on US Vice President Barkley, December 3, 1951

The President's remarks

Vice-President Barkley, this is a rare occasion in which no less than the Vice President of the United States has made direct expression of his convictions regarding the relations of the Philippines and the United States. Your remarks will go down in history as one distinct chapter of that long book to be written by posterity which will perhaps bear the title, "America Encourages the Philippines."

Mr. Vice President, you are entitled to the gratitude of the Filipino people for all that you have said because in effect you have come to stimulate our spirit, awaken and encourage us to continue the work which we have undertaken. We hope we shall always be so encouraged and backed up by the United States.

Had such observations been made before, the Filipino people might have disabused their minds that we lost our freedom when our independence was granted us. From now on, America will always be a friend and you have come to cement that friendship.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

**Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the award of Medal for Valor to Capt. Conrado Yap
(posthumously) Extemporaneous Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the award of Medal for Valor to Capt. Conrado Yap (posthumously)**

[Delivered at Malacañan Social Hall, December 8, 1951]

*Mr. Speaker, Mr. Secretary, Officers and Men
of the Armed Forces, Mrs. Yap:*

I appreciate your coming this afternoon ready to hear something your commander-in-Chief may have to say at this critical moment.

Before I proceed to talk to you on matters affecting us in common, I want to reiterate what I said at the Rizal Stadium two weeks ago regarding the conduct of our men both here and abroad. I refer especially to the impressive services rendered by our forces in Korea. Their valor and gallantry and their exhibition of patriotism not only in defense of our country's rights but also) in defense of the world's right to fee free have given us a great name and prestige everywhere.

Unfortunately, She would have Mrs. Conrado Yap was not at the rally. been the recipient of greater honor than what she received this afternoon. But on this special occasion, I want to devote my first thoughts to Captain Yap whose name will go down in history as one great example of Filipino valor exhibited outside the confines of our country.

I hope that your brothers in Korea engaged in the same fight in which Captain Yap and your comrades in arms were engaged will bring more recognition to the Philippines by their gallantry and heroism. Prestige cannot endure unless it is developed, preserved and nurtured by those who are supposed to uphold it. Therefore, it devolves upon the Armed Forces of the Philippines whether here or in Korea to enhance and keep that prestige shining.

You who are here fighting the enemies right on our soil have the same opportunity to display your mettle for which our country is well known abroad, perhaps it is harder on your part as it is sometimes revolting to your conscience to have to exhibit valor and gallantry against people of our own flesh and blood. Certainly, it is far more difficult to kill our own brothers than enemies who belong to a foreign race.

It is sad for us to see the continued spectacle of a brother fighting his own brother, but our enemies have proffered such flattering and flagrantly false promises of betterment that a number of our brothers have been misled, going to the extent of attempting to subvert out government.

The special task to which you are now assigned is unique in our history. We have had revolutions in the past. During the Spanish and American regimes some of us sided with the Spaniards and with the Americans. But our Katipunans, our revolutionary forces, were fighting for the liberty and freedom of our country. The men who fought against our revolutionary forces did not become the object of derision. The were not the tool of a foreign power that would deliver us to another country. They were more or less compelled by circumstances to fight in defense of a regime established here, a regime which had the power and summary supervision and control over our own affairs.

In other words, the powers that we were fighting at that time had complete control and exercised sovereignty on our territory, and according to international law we were subject people. Based on such a situation the men who were arrayed against us could not be charged with treason. But the situation today is just the reverse. The power behind the dissident elements, the influence that is making them fight their own governments and their own people has no authority and never had any control or supervision in cur country. It is merely a dangerous and deceptive influence wielded from outside for the sinister purpose of dominating the world, enslaving everybody who falls under its power. Its tools are fighting for the institution here of a new regime which is not only inimical to but also subversive

of our sovereignty and independence. You and I and those fighting across the seas are all pitted against the evils of a foreign power. So, we are practically fighting the same battle that our brothers in Korea are fighting, the only difference being that we are on our own soil and to the misfortune if not tragedy of our country we are fighting here our own men and our own brothers in order to prevent their delivering us to a foreign master.

It is my desire to decorate you for having shown bravery in the local field. Your task is not finished; your responsibility is not ended, and your great work must continue until completed.

It is sad to note that certain elements are trying to divide us when we are so absorbed in our own important task of clearing our countrysides of those regarded as enemies of our freedom and democratic institutions. There is no such division in our rank. We stand solidly united.

I don't want you to misunderstand the publication in the papers. Both Speaker Perez and I and Secretary Magsaysay coincide in our fundamental views regarding the use of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The present organization has been effected precisely to cope with the current situation. We abolished the department of the interior and transferred supervision of the constabulary to one department at the head of which is Secretary Magsaysay. He has succeeded not only in unifying his command but also in coordinating all divisions of the army. The organization of the army today is so efficient, strong, aggressive and successful that the people now realize that at long last we have a strong, upright, independent and just army that they can trust to do its duty irrespective of this or that party. (*Applause.*) It is not the success of Secretary Magsaysay alone—and I don't want to wrest credit from him. It is not the success of the chief of staff alone, nor that of the deputy or vice-chief of staff alone. Nor is it the success of the provincial commanders alone, nor of your captains, your lieutenants, sergeants or corporals alone. It is rather the success of the whole organization, from the commander-in-chief down to the last private.

I have been receiving reports as well as commendations expressing admiration for the conduct of the armed forces not only in its campaign against dissidents but also in the maintenance of peace and order during the elections. I don't want you to be discouraged. What you have achieved you must preserve. An honor has been conferred upon you—an honor which has raised the prestige of your country because of your exemplary conduct and the valor you have exhibited outside and inside our country during all these campaigns. You must guard it. You must protect at all costs that name and prestige which belong not only to you but also to your country.

As commander-in-chief, I would not allow you to utilize your position, your command, or your organization to abuse your privilege to vote or campaign in my favor or against me or any member of the administration. Such move will expose you to serious criticism. The moment you did that—and this is the warning of Speaker Perez—you would be exposing the whole organization to criticism and to the fear that some day when you decide to support one party, one group, or one man, you would utilize your force or your organization to stage a *coup d'etat* which is against the principles of a democratic government.

It is right for us to apprise you of that danger. It is right for anybody to warn the people. Such an eventuality, however, should never occur. If it did, outsiders would be justified in calling the Philippines a banana republic. This is not a banana republic. The last election, the success of our campaign against dissidents, the bravery of our armed men on the field of battle, the heroism shown by our people during the last world war, and our fight to preserve democracy, have amply shown that ours is a republic that can stand and can continue to stand. We are all convinced of our individual and collective rights to maintain a free and democratic institution you did not care whether it was a Liberal man or a Nacionalista man who won in the last election. And for this record, you have! won the prestige of being one of the most respected armed forces in the Far East.

I am glad to have been given the opportunity to talk to you from shoulder to shoulder, this being the only time that I had occasion to address key men of the armed forces of the Philippines. I want to tell you one thing. Don't develop that hostile attitude which many of those who are jealous of the success of the armed forces are trying to capitalize at your expense.

One great thing which nobody perhaps has realized is the fact that despite the suspension of the *habeas corpus*, none of us, from your commander-in-chief down to the last soldier has taken advantage of it in order to lock up leaders of

the other party. There was that great fear, that great suspicion, which constituted' the greatest propaganda against the suspension of the habeas corpus two or three months before the elections. What happened? We did not arrest anybody. We did not unreasonably detain anybody. We did not even make any effort to deprive anyone of his freedom of action. Everybody was free to cast his vote as he wanted to. You have so conducted yourselves in the interpretation of the suspension of the *habeas corpus* that people now believe that that power cannot be abused as long as the men who exercise the privilege exercise it justly, uprightly and reasonably.

I want you to feel that the whole administration recognizes your great service, that there is no attempt on our part to destroy the organization as it is. We have conceived the unification of the armed forces. We have reorganized the armed forces in such a manner that it could operate, as it is operating, especially against dissidents. Once we have cleaned our countryside of these elements that endanger or retard the life and future of our country, those who have been organized as special forces to quell dissidents anywhere will be transferred to the constabulary forces to police their respective provinces, cities and municipalities. If you are not returned to the constabulary today, it is because you are needed in our campaign against dissidents. But once that is accomplished, and I hope it will be soon, you will be returned to the constabulary to be stationed in the provinces and municipalities to cope with the work of maintaining peace and order or to remain at regional or district headquarters.

That is my concept of the organization of the Armed Forces today and I want you to bear in mind that I know that many of you are tired of fighting. But we don't have enough men to take your place in the field. We wanted to increase the BCTs. Unfortunately, our funds are limited. We have been able to increase to some extent but the personnel just now are not enough to replace 'those who should get a little rest. It is our desire, however, to retire the BCTs so that each one could discharge his duties ably, physically and fulfill the tasks assigned to him. For the time being, I want you to keep up with your good work. Don't lose enthusiasm. Don't lose your high morale. I want to tell you that the people have absolute confidence in you now. But that confidence does not mean that you can abuse your authority. I warn you together with the Speaker, not to meddle in the local civil affairs unless you are asked to do so. Guard yourselves against the criticism that you are utilizing your uniform and your weapons to impose upon the people your authority which need not be exercised unless you are asked to maintain peace and order.

Now that the elections are over, it is necessary for you to be more calm and serene. I don't want you to have what we call *amor propio*. If you denounce any public official for any irregularity and you can prove your charges to the court or to any other competent body, do so as a matter of duty; but don't appear as if you were persecuting him, especially if the accused is a civilian because if you do that you will arouse the hatred and hostility of the populace. You would be losing the good name and prestige you have so justly earned. I for one don't want that to happen. I don't want the name and prestige of our army to suffer, and I want you to feel that I am behind you one hundred per cent. Do your duty justly. Do it without any fear. Stand on your right. Never be afraid of anybody. But, remember, don't be over-zealous or over enthusiastic, and utilize your uniform or weapon or your influence in order to succeed in prosecuting what you think has been done against the law.

I am making particular reference to cases in which you have aroused not only the anger but also the fear of the civilian population that you were over-playing your role. I am going to ask Secretary Magsaysay, the Chief of Staff, to see to it that you keep aloof from all these entanglements, from any of these political troubles that are now being aired in the courts of justice and before investigation boards. Keep away from these but do not conceal anything that you think ought to be brought to the attention of the public, the court, or the board. Shun the temptation of appearing as if you were motivated by the spirit of persecution to gratify *amor propio*. Take such cases as a matter of course before a court of justice or an investigation board.

Now, I want to congratulate you again for the splendid work you have accomplished not only in the pursuit of the dissidents but also in the conduct of the last general elections. If you continue with your fine work, I am quite sure that the honor and prestige that our country enjoys will be shared by posterity and everybody will be grateful to you.

Gentlemen, I thank you again.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the award of Medal for Valor to Capt. Conrado Yap (posthumously). *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(12), 6095-6099.

Thirty-eighth monthly radio chat of President Quirino
Thirty-eighth monthly Radio Chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To his fellow countrymen

[Broadcast from Malacañan, December 15, 1951]

Fellow Countrymen:

It is only ten days before Christmas. Normally, I would be thinking with you on counting our blessings and enjoying the season's traditional good cheer. But instead I have to speak to you now on calamitous disasters, challenging our urgent responsibility and requiring utmost energy and dispatch to face. The critical moment demands that we think more kindly of our neighbors, even our foes.

Three major natural disasters have just hit a big portion of our population—the renewed eruption of Mt. Hibok-Hibok with unprecedented violence, and the typhoons “Wanda” and “Amy” which cut a broad swath of death and destruction on the face of our land.

The havoc wrought includes more than a thousand lives lost, hundreds of thousands of people rendered homeless, and property damage in crops, public works and improvements, and homes running to over a hundred million pesos worth. In public works alone damage is estimated at two million pesos. It will be a bleak Christmas and New Year for the people of Camiguin Island, of the Provinces of Cebu, Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Iloilo, Capiz, Antique, Samar, Leyte, Masbate, Marinduque, Surigao, Sorsogon, Mindoro, Camarines Norte, Quezon, Laguna, and Romblon.

Of the Hibok-Hibok disaster it is reported that 286 bodies have been officially recorded as recovered, and 800 more missing and presumed dead; 34 patients suffering burns of various degrees were confined at the emergency hospital at Mahinog, and 22 of them to date have been evacuated to the provincial hospital at Cagayan de Oro. Routed from their homes in Mambajao and Catarman were 26,000 persons, whose emergency needs are being taken care of. There are 13 evacuation centers in southern Camiguin for 16,000 persons served by 16 relief workers and assisted by a host of school teachers. Eight thousand evacuees have already been safely moved to the mainland, Bohol and Cebu. Relief cost there to date is ₱100,000 in food, clothing, and medicine.

A total of 49,342 houses in ten provinces in the Visayas and southern Luzon were totally or partially destroyed by the typhoon “Wanda” on November 21. Two hundred thirteen thousand two hundred forty persons were displaced and rendered homeless, and 82 reported dead. So far 65,000 of the neediest victims have received assistance in emergency food rations worth ₱52,650.

Typhoon “Amy” which struck on December 9 and 10 has accounted so far for 626 dead in the Visayas, with thousands upon thousands rendered without shelter, and damage in public works and private property of staggering proportions. So far authorized for relief of typhoon “Amy's” victims is ₱65,200 by the Red Cross. Our Social Welfare Administration has disbursed ₱55,000 for the relief of “Wanda” and “Amy” victims in clothes, rice, and housing* materials.

Three days ago I was to have left for a personal survey of all these stricken areas, but typhoon “Amy” had not spent its course and a new one developed, hampering the activities of our relief workers themselves on the scene and compounding the grief and misfortune of our suffering population. The work of rescue, relief, and rehabilitation still has many weeks ahead, and I expect to leave at the earliest opportunity to reach these areas. I shall take advantage to check up on the progress of various government projects in Mindanao under our economic development program.

Meanwhile, I have proclaimed the existence of a public calamity in those areas to prevent the excessive cost of prime necessities in those places. The full rigors of the law must be imposed on violators found guilty of exploiting

the extreme need of the population for their selfish advantage. They are public enemies and must be dealt with accordingly as such.

All steps to cover the entire situation have been taken with the greatest speed, as duly provided under the circumstances, by an administrative order in 1948 coordinating the activities of the different relief organizations of the government with the Philippine National Red Cross and other civic and charitable institutions.

I called a meeting of the Council of State this morning for the purpose of considering the over-all program of relief and assistance to typhoon sufferers and victims of the Hibok-Hibok eruptions. We explored the possibility of making available from authorized appropriations of the government the necessary amount to cope with the appalling situation, which would involve over a million, pesos as recommended both by the Social Welfare Administration and the Red Cross. We found that only ₱450,000 could be released as advances from different sources in the government, appropriation. I, therefore, consider it necessary to appeal to the public, here and abroad, for voluntary contributions and donations.

I am gratified to learn of the initial response of some business firms, Filipino and foreign-owned, and civic organizations and private individuals who have volunteered to help in the way of medical supplies and other relief needs.

I urge the broadening of this response to include all possible business elements, civic and community groups, humanitarian institutions, and charitable citizens in a position to extend help to the victims of these disasters.

Donations in cash and in kind, can be delivered to Mrs. Asuncion A. Perez, the Public Welfare Commissioner, or to Secretary of Health, Juan A. Salcedo, who, as Philippine National Red Cross Chairman, is jointly administering and supervising the relief and rehabilitation work in accordance with that executive order coordinating the activities of the different relief organizations.

I appeal to you all whose largeness of spirit anticipates a generous measure of giving during this Christmas season to consider the present opportunity to be able to come to the succor of our fellow countrymen in the stricken provinces. Your contribution will be the best possible investment you can have in a season of peace and goodwill. You will strengthen by that much the bond of human sympathy which joins you to your neighbors and Community without which we cannot exist and endure as a free and united people.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1951). Thirty-eighth monthly radio chat of President Quirino. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 47(12), 6104-6106.

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino at the Inauguration of the Central Agricultural College

Extemporaneous Remarks of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines At the Inauguration of the Central Agricultural College

[Delivered in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, January 6, 1952]

WAYS TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY¹

RATHER than send a well and carefully worded message to be read on this occasion, I preferred to come so that with my presence here I would enjoy not only the happiness of being a witness to the transformation of this institution from school to college, but also the privilege of impressing upon the people my personal interest in and determination to follow up the progress of this College. At the same time, I wanted you to know the high objective which inspired me on December 31, 1950, to convert this institution into a college by executive order.

This is not the only step that I took in the first few months of my incumbency in order to show the need of revising our school system with a view to giving more emphasis to vocational education. We have revived and revitalized many of our agricultural schools in different regions. We have converted into regional schools many of the trade schools in the Philippines so as to make it easy for the national government to concentrate its attention on their development for the good of the country at large. We have converted the normal school into a full-fledged college and, in the preparation of our huge program of economic development and agricultural expansion, we are setting aside big sums of money with which to provide our agricultural institutions with equipment and the supplies that they need, as well as with technical men to enable them to develop faster and more efficiently the agricultural possibilities of our country.

This school, which has been in existence for almost 50 years, has grown from a mere intermediate agricultural school to a college. Its growth represents a consistent and persistent endeavor. I have been quite a close observer of its development and expansion. This is not the first time that I visited this institution. I am not a stranger to this hall. My interest in this school has grown with the years and when I found time to give due recognition to those who have organized and built it, I did so with pleasure and on my exclusive responsibility.

There is one unique phase in the teaching method of this College which no other school in the Philippines or abroad can boast of. Those who enroll here learn how to become good farmers and good economists, good administrators and good and patriotic citizens. They have their own government. They follow the rules of their own college administration which forms as good a basis for their future success as citizens.

Increasing production, whether agricultural or industrial, does not mean anything to us unless the effort exerted is coordinated with our greater effort to build a substantial, stable and united country. We have agricultural schools scattered everywhere. We have farm settlements established in strategic places. We have a program of general agricultural development which is quite ambitious. But in spite of all these objectives, we shall fail if we do not train our citizenry to produce more, to be better hands in farms and factories, and to assume greater responsibility in coordinating their individual constructive efforts with the efforts of the rest of us who are struggling to make our country a strong, enduring and happy nation.

This is the great difference between this agricultural College and other schools in the country. It is this type of College that should be established regionally to serve as centers in each region in creating constructive communities. It is this type of College that contributes to the basic development of our country, bring economic security to our people, and insure to them a life of substance and happiness conducive to the enhancement of our national prestige.

Farming is still the most democratizing activity in our life. It is farming that compels you to bend and bow and stoop to produce. It is not the brain-searching activity that scholars usually develop. It is something that induces us to look down underneath our feet and encourages us to till the rich, fertile soil that God has given us.

Heretofore, we have been known as an agricultural country. But we are exerting every effort to show that we can also industrialize the country. For that purpose, we are establishing basic industries for the furtherance of industrial activities like those mentioned by Congressman Cases — the Ambuklao project in the Mountain Province designed to supply the territory north with electric current and provide the citizenry not only with light but also with power for new cottage industries which will gradually develop into big ones more responsive to the needs of the country. Thus we shall avoid importing so many articles that are now eating up our dollars. There are other huge and important projects like the Maria Cristina which, perhaps, will be the biggest hydroelectric plant in the Orient and the fertilizer plant being established to produce the necessary element to enrich the soil especially in the north and central Luzon, which is now poor. The fertilizer so produced will be distributed throughout the country in order to enable the soil to increase its yield.

In our agricultural pursuit, let us try to discover new products. In our experiments, let us develop not only already existing plants and trees but also new plants or new varieties and increase our produce. For this, we need special training.

Heretofore, our agricultural students have been given limited facilities by our schools and institutions because of our limited economic resources. But with the assistance from the United States and also the greater activity among our financiers who now seem to be giving more incentive to agricultural and industrial production, I am sure that provisions can be made for our public and private schools to engage in agricultural experiments on a scientific basis. This is what we immediately need.

Our territory is rich, our potentialities are unlimited; we have all sorts of mines and minerals under our soil; the climate is excellent; our forests are full of trees; and there is an unlimited number of men at present eager and determined to explore and exploit these potentialities. But we still lack the technical knowledge to take advantage of all of our potentialities. It is therefore necessary that institutions such as this be helped and encouraged so that they can produce the necessary technical men, the brain, the brawn and the know-how which we need to convert all our country's potentialities into unlimited sources of wealth.

We may not be able to achieve all this in one generation but we have made a good start. This government has devised a plan which is quite ambitious. We have called it the economic mobilization program. We have been trying to carry it out with our limited means with the assistance of our friends across the seas. However, the effort is consistent, clear, and determined. We have a program of economic national action. We are not groping in the dark. If there is one thing our country can be proud of it is the fact that we have found our way to economic development and industrial expansion. In carrying out this ambitious program, we need the concentrated attention, patriotic devotion and unselfish interest of those who are called upon to cooperate in the achievement of our great national objectives for the happiness and security of our people.

My friends, I came not merely to witness this memorable event or to see for myself in what other way the national government can extend assistance for this College. I came also to find out in what manner the government could expand the activities of this College to other regions so that we shall have in each strategic region, institutions or agricultural colleges such as this that can develop agricultural leaders from among our youth to carry out our national policy.

I congratulate the present officers of the College administration for having created here an atmosphere of cooperation, an atmosphere of earnest devotion in the realization of our concrete program of agricultural development. And, on this occasion, I cannot forget the founders of this institution who continuously, consistently and persistently have endeavored to make this College grow to its present status. Let us have more of this spirit of cooperation among our citizens.

We don't have to concentrate our attention in Central Luzon alone. There are other lands available, perhaps more advantageously situated than Muñoz College, especially in the heart of Mindanao, Samar, Palawan, Cagayan Valley or Mindoro. Let us cast our eyes further and broaden our horizon, and see if we can find other suitable locations for agricultural colleges similar to the Central Luzon Agricultural College. There is an imperative need for training men as agricultural leaders to develop this country. I hope that 20 years hence we shall look back upon this day with pride for having been able to identify ourselves with the promotion of the agricultural progress of our country and for having helped build a college that will endure and give honor to the name and prestige of our republic.

Footnote:

¹Extemporaneous remarks at the Inauguration of the Central Luzon Agricultural College, Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, Jan. 6, 1952.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1952). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the luncheon given in honor of Francis Cardinal Spellman

**Extemporaneous remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
During the luncheon given in honor of Francis Cardinal Spellman**

[Delivered on January 8, 1952]

Your Eminence, Your Excellency, and Friends:

I invited you to join me at luncheon this noon to honor one of the greatest friends of the Philippines in America and for that matter outside the Philippines. We have had great friends in the past—people who have aided us in our political aspirations, who have greatly helped us in our economic development, and who are still assisting us in our military needs in order to insure our internal and external security. But the most recent and most effective assistance we have received has come from our friend Cardinal Spellman who is our guest today. He is giving us the spiritual assistance that we need at this very moment.

Cardinal Spellman has made friends all over the world, not by staying near the St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, but by going out, especially in the field of battle; mixing with the wounded, the sick, the disabled, and the heroes of the last world war and of the present war in Korea. He has traveled all over the world twice. Wherever he goes he makes friends. The friendship that he gains is born in the open battlefields where men of different colors and creeds fight. Thus, his friendship is based on something fundamental. It is based not only on religion but on human love, on brotherhood. And because he is known everywhere and is a friend of everybody, he has been instrumental in uniting peoples of different creeds in the battlefields and in other places he has visited. We who are his friends should also consider ourselves the friends of his friends and thus prove to him that we are friends of the world. (*Applause.*)

We have fought hard, especially during recent years, for our freedom, not only for human liberty but also for religious freedom. We have employed all means—man power, economic power, fire power, and what we may call prayer power. Fortunately, we belong to a class which has always been identified with the world crusade for peace initiated by the Holy Father and his associates. Cardinal Spellman, so close a friend, so dear to the Holy Father, is identified with all the measures taken by the Vatican in implementing the policy of indoctrinating the peoples of the world with the necessity of maintaining peace through love of humanity. He is implementing what the Holy Father is doing at the Vatican.

So we are proud to have him with us today because he has come to see his constituency in the Philippines, which he has visited for the third time. We hope that he will continue to visit us and water the beautiful plant that he has planted in our midst—the love of humanity and the brotherhood of men. I am quite sure that young and strong as he still is, he will pay us more visits. And when he returns to the Philippines, I hope he will be able to say that he has encouraged the people not only in Korea and the Philippines, but all the peoples of the world who are now engaged in the struggle for human existence.

We who believe in the life hereafter are interested in personal liberty. We are also interested in our religious freedom, which today is one of our greatest assets and weapons against Communism. Cardinal Spellman has come to give us incentive and encouragement and to strengthen our spirit to continue fighting against what has been considered as the most serious threat against our civil liberties and our spiritual freedom—Communism.

With his, help, with his prayers, and with his intercession with the Holy Father. I hope we shall be able to develop our country and make it stronger economically, militarily and spiritually. We welcome Your Eminence and hope you will come back again a closer, stronger friend of the Philippines.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the luncheon given in honor of Francis Cardinal Spellman. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(1), 28-30.

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino at the Governors and Mayors' Conference

**Extemporaneous Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Governors and Mayors' Conference**

[Delivered on January 12, 1952]

LET'S PULL TOGETHER¹

I AM happy to be introduced in my own house. (*Laughter*) I did not wait for the committee to come and notify me that I was going to address you with some closing remarks this morning. I met the committee half-way and I will always meet your conference, the body of governors and city mayors, half-way. (*Applause*)

I learned that yesterday you had quite an interesting *intermezzo* in your deliberations. (*Laughter*) It was some spicy interlude in your official discussions. It made your conference more interesting and, perhaps, it wielded great influence in opening wide the eyes of the members of this body.

Although it has never been our intention, at least not mine, to encourage the organization of partisan groups in your midst while you are in conference in Manila, I know you couldn't avoid injecting some partisan topics to enliven your deliberations. As far as I am concerned, you can organize one league of governors and city mayors, one league of Nacionalistas and another of Liberals, or a separate league of mayors exclusively. Nor do I care if any of you wants to be in league with the devil himself. (*Laughter*)

However, I wish to repeat that all executives are supposed to execute the laws and policies of the administration, and there is only one administration. Outside of that you can do as you please: you can go home, you can go to any hotel or restaurant or any public square, and discuss matters close to your hearts political or otherwise and prepare for the next elections. (*Applause*) But as long as you are here assembled in your official capacity and in an effort to map out the activities of your administrations, I will work with you. (*Applause*)

I have invited you to come to Novaliches precisely with the intention of erasing from your minds any political differences which you might have had in your deliberations. I also invited you to help me plant trees in my farm so that I shall always be able to remember you wherever I go and whenever we meet again. I have prepared one tree for each governor, city mayor, and cabinet member and for friends who have found time to join us this morning so that five or six years hence when these trees begin to bear fruits, we can get together again and help me gather them.

You are in a place where you can forget your worries. As a matter of fact, when I go to the *kiosk* over there and take my breakfast in the morning or philosophize in the afternoon, I become so romantic that I feel like composing verses to the setting sun and the rising moon. I wish, therefore, that your coming here would be a source of pleasant memories and that such pleasant memories would rest upon something accomplished.

I congratulate the governors and city mayors here assembled. I don't need to repeat what I said at the beginning of your conference, that as executives we have many things to do and in order to accomplish them we must adopt a system of disposing of them so that we don't have to rush things. I have asked the department heads to be with you every day and preside over your daily meetings. The object is to give you an opportunity to clear up whatever doubts you might have and find a way of synchronizing your work with that of the national government for the sake of speed and efficiency.

I hope you have taken advantage of that opportunity and that you are now ready to go home with something definite in your mind. Perhaps you have already noted down in your memorandum book what you will do when you arrive in your respective provinces and cities.

We are beginning the second phase of the administration with a new resolve. The other night I had occasion to summarize that resolve with three C's—concentration, cooperation, coordination. I hope that these three C's will also guide you in your respective activities when you return. It is only by harmonious, expeditious and systematic solution of the problems that confront us, coordinated with those of the national government, that we can accomplish our common task. None of us would discard the possibility or would not welcome the probability of success based upon this coordinated effort on our part. You should take advantage of the opportunity offered you because the national government is ready, willing and determined to cooperate with you. (*Applause*)

When the separate leagues of governors were organized here I interpreted the act as a part of your partisan stunt,—the desire to cling to your respective parties. I am not asking you to forsake your party affiliations. Everybody has a perfect right to stick to his party if he is convinced that that is the best he can do. But let us pull together and work together as one man in the promotion of the people's interests and of the country's general welfare. (*Applause*)

The problems which you have discussed with the heads of departments during the last three days will find concrete application as you spend more time thinking how you can efficiently discharge your official duties when you return home. The heads of departments will always be glad to discuss further with you the problems of your respective offices. If you believe you should stay in Manila two or three days more so as to follow up certain cases that will further the objectives that brought you here in connection not only with this conference but also with your program of administration, you may prolong your stay and I will consider it official. (*Applause*)

I want you to feel, however, that when you go home, you will realize that we have been together for a common purpose. You cannot isolate yourselves in your respective jurisdictions. The responsibility is not only joint but solidary. To accomplish your task successfully, each and everyone of you must always have in mind that there is a national government cooperating and achieving the same high purpose that inspires your administration.

Let me repeat that I am as much interested in your success as I am in mine. The failure of a Nacionalista provincial board is no less my failure because if you do not succeed simply because you did not receive proper guidance and support, I, too, can be blamed for it. But I would not like to be identified in your failure. (*Laughter*) I would like to be identified only in your success. As my aspiration is positive, I want you to feel that your duties are positive.

Don't turn your backs on me when I go to your provinces, simply because you are Nacionalistas. I am going to visit several provinces, some dominated by Nacionalistas, such as Samar and Leyte, in the latter, because Governor Bernardo Torres has been elected, I think, largely with the help of the Nacionalistas. Cebu itself has given Governor Sergio Osmeña, Jr., the palm of victory because of the help of Nacionalista stalwarts; Governor Osmeña fought openly the leadership of the Liberals in that province. But, if I go to Samar, Leyte and Cebu, I expect that no party demonstration will be staged before me. I go there as chief executive; I am not going there as the supreme head of the Liberal Party. As chief executive, I am entitled at least to the courtesy of the officials concerned. I will not countenance party manifestations, demonstrations and wranglings when I visit your respective provinces, and other provinces which I may visit later. Such actions will embarrass some people. I have my own party men in each province. I have friends in each province. I have sympathizers outside of my own party, but I don't want to be placed in a position where I would have to decide which group I should join as I arrive in your province. Please don't place me in that embarrassment.

I will be the first to respect the authority of the Nacionalista or the Liberal governor as I arrive in a given province. I am going there in a helpful spirit and not to promote any political interests. And I want to tell you right now that I am not thinking of 1953 because if I do, I shall be weakening my hand. Since I do not want to weaken my hand during this period, let us forget the elections of 1953.

This is not a warning. It is but to prepare your minds that if I go to the provinces you must not interpret my visit or inspection as one prompted or inspired by political motives. I will do the same when you come to me. When you come to Manila to discuss your special problems with me, feel free to talk, whether you be a Nacionalista or a Liberal. As chief executive, I am ready to extend the cooperation that you expect from me. This is the only way by which we can discharge our duties with efficiency. I hope this same spirit will always inspire us in our relationship.

So, let us end this conference in a spirit of joint and solidary responsibility as we approach our problems in a common effort to solve them on the basis of mutual cooperation, giving allowance for partisan feelings. This is the only way we can continue our cordial, efficient and harmonious association as respective heads of the national and local governments.

I don't want to take much of your time. I wish your deliberations success. I congratulate those who participated in the debates yesterday for the freedom, aggressiveness and frankness with which they expressed themselves. It is only thus that we can tell who is our friend and who is not, and who is going to cooperate with us.

If you want to cooperate with me, help me. If not, that is your own responsibility. I have no ax to grind. All I want is to concentrate my attention on my duties so that I will be able to finish my task before my term expires. If I can count on your support, your loyal cooperation, I shall be the happiest man as chief executive of this country. I offer you the opportunity to cooperate with me. I want to tell you again that I am not looking for trouble. But if you want trouble, well, I am still young and gay. . . .

Footnote:

¹Extemporaneous remarks at Governors and Mayors' Conference, January 12, 1952.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1952). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Thirty-ninth monthly radio chat of President Quirino

**Thirty-ninth monthly radio chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To his fellow countrymen**

[Delivered on January 15, 1952]

Fellow Countrymen:

The point of my radio chat this evening is very simple. It expresses my New Year resolve in three C's—this is not a suggestion of the controversial class C sugar which, by the way, has not been granted yet to anybody if that somebody can find class C sugar—*concentration, cooperation and coordination* of all our work.

This year we are faced with extraordinarily heavy problems. As we follow the calendar, these problems become the more pressing and complicated. We have to solve them apart and together, according to priorities in the order of their urgency and importance.

Personally, I am anxious to finish my job but I am not just going to rush things. I desire a well-traced plan of action, not a hit-or-miss procedure. I am determined to secure positive and concrete results.

Our program of national action involves billions of pesos to be invested by the government as well as private enterprises, hundreds of thousands of people to be employed, and the happiness of millions of this and succeeding generations. We cannot afford haphazard execution.

But because of the limited period of execution, I desire to impress upon my associates in and outside the government as well as upon the people to be served, that they contribute what may be expected of them in the most systematic and efficient manner.

First and foremost, we must finish our pacification campaign. Without peace and order we cannot properly work and follow our constructive pursuits.

Presently, we need more equipped men to impose government authority and respect-for the law. But we need more and immediate development, too, to achieve economic security. Gun and plow must therefore go hand in hand, efficiently and expeditiously, to secure peace and production, justice and satisfaction, the essentials of domestic tranquility.

We must go beyond merely preaching and affording protection of civil liberties. We must act positively to provide our liberated people with, a life of substance,—at least, a means of decent livelihood. A free man without such means is like a bird flying in the desert, looking in vain for food and water.

Our speedy economic development requires not only the improvement and expansion of our present public utilities and a more extensive exploitation of our natural resources, but the opening without loss of time of new areas of activities. We must accelerate the equitable distribution of our vacant public agricultural lands among the landless in strategic regions of production, and expedite the grant of titles to those who have established their right either as settlers or as purchasers of public lands or government acquired private lands. These people also need guidance and organization for increased cooperative productivity and responsible community living.

We have to expedite the construction and multiplication of irrigation systems.

We must rush the completion of our fertilizer plants.

We should speed up the establishment of our basic industries, the installation and early operation of our hydraulic plants and possible smelting plants in Luzon and Mindanao.

We desire to inaugurate soon our national shipyards and steel mills in Mariveles.

The improvement of social conditions in our centers of population has been occupying our minds, and our government has already spent millions of pesos for the construction of thousands of homes for the low-salaried employees and workers. By June of this year we will have 3,000 of this type in Quezon City alone. We expect to do more, and in other cities, too.

Besides we want to encourage general home building and to improve the living facilities for people who have been induced to quit our slums, establishing healthful worker communities in many cities and municipalities.

We desire to reactivate our mining enterprises and give more encouragement for the establishment of more industries in order to provide more employment opportunities for all.

In general, we are determined to improve our people's living standards and make 1952 a better and happier year for all of us than 1951.

We have, indeed, many things to do this year!

We can only attain our objective more quickly if we talk less and act more. We have graduated from the period of mere exploration of the possibilities or probabilities of success in our different national enterprises. We are all agreed that the economic development of the country is still the basis of our economic life and the continued enjoyment of the powers and privileges in our new political life.

While different theories or manners of approach to our economic problems have been considered to exhaustion, and there can be no end to their discussion, what we have already decided to carry out must be fully implemented to fruition. We therefore need to *concentrate* our attention. Concentration does not only mean fixed and close attention to the execution of the multifarious details of the program; it also means that those charged to act should not be unnecessarily distracted.

All elements are expected not only to do their own part in the national scheme but to *cooperate* in allowing others to discharge their duties.

Thus cooperation calls not only for positive contribution but for judicious inhibition from interfering in the efficient execution of other people's jobs. Those hitched officially or privately in the prosecution of their respective responsibilities should be given all the opportunity, all the encouragement and all the assistance needed to measure up to the people's expectations in the accomplishment of their tasks.

The elections over, we should be able to relax, to relieve the atmosphere of political or partisan tension, and to restore a general feeling of normalcy. If we cannot avoid talking politics—for we have become addicts ever since the privilege of suffrage was placed in our hands,—let us talk constructive politics: politics that helps build and not destroy.

There will be enough time for politicking again when the next election comes. In fact, we needed only two or three months of campaigning before the last election. Our responsible leaders could do a whole lot to minimize the partisan spirit impairing the attitude and efficiency of our citizenry in its efforts at nation-building.

So the best possible cooperation from those who have just gone through recent political battles is to restore their nerves and stop agitating, for the time being, while we are all engaged in the economic development of our country. Political agitation has been responsible for the failure or delay in many of our constructive pursuits.

To contribute our just share in developing our country, it is necessary that we coordinate our activities. There must be coordination not only of the activities of the different branches of the government in the execution of their respective parts but also of the private activities with the official activities.

The program cannot be left alone to the government for execution. Corollary action on the part of private persons and entities is needed to attain integrated national development.

This calls for the spirit of partnership between government and private initiative. The government has taken steps to dispose of the enterprises heretofore financed by it in favor of private entities or individuals ready and desirous to continue developing them. Several government corporations and industrial establishments have already been transferred to private hands.

The government has not completely divorced itself from those enterprises. As long as its assistance in their continuation or promotion is still needed, the government has seen to it that it share in their financing, and provide technical help through its officers.

In certain instances the government has purchased the necessary equipment or units to be operated in order to facilitate the progress of a given enterprise. It has, for example, acquired ships for the development of our merchant marine. Under the ECA program, the government also facilitates the acquisition of equipment which the different private enterprises may need.

The government is speeding up the construction of more roads and bridges, and clearing lands to open new regions for development by private enterprise especially in the virgin regions of Mindanao, Mindoro, Palawan, and Cagayan Valley.

United States assistance through the ECA is giving the Philippines a big boost in our agricultural and industrial development and in the solution of many of our social problems. With our mutual defense pact, America has greatly strengthened our external security. In such an atmosphere there is no reason why we should not accelerate our growth and development.

Our people should fully appreciate the opportunities being afforded them by the government which in many cases has become not only the industrial but the capitalist partner. All that we need is to coordinate the activities of the government with those of private enterprise.

I repeat: our new resolve is concentration, cooperation and coordination. Let the three C's govern our action as a people this year and in the years to come.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). Thirty-ninth monthly radio chat of President Quirino. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(1), 32-35.

Remarks of President Quirino at the Liberal Party Caucus

**Extemporaneous remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Liberal Party Caucus**

[Delivered at the Social Hall, Malacañan, January 27, 1952]

I have come from a campaign for unity covering four days of visit to Cebu, Leyte, Samar, and Masbate. It was an opportunity for me to practice public speaking. I have long neglected that phase of our public duty. The Nacionalistas have been allowed to enjoy practically a monopoly of speech-making and lambasting to out discredit,

This morning, I want to give; members of Congress of our party a chance to practice speech-making in Malacañan. I shall not, therefore, take much of your time. You will have all the opportunity to say something or denounce whatever you wish just to get it out of your system so that when you leave the palace you will feel fully satisfied.

For the moment, I think it is good that we all realize the necessity of pulling together in view of the grave responsibility we have assumed. The session will open tomorrow. You all know how divided and depleted our ranks are, especially in the Senate, and how disorganized we appear because of recent differences even among ourselves. The time has come for us to show again that we are united and that we are ready and determined to tackle every responsibility we have undertaken.

I have only two years more to go, but many of you still have a number of years remaining. I know you do not want to lose the ground you have gained during your incumbency either in the Senate or in the House. So, we must cooperate and acquaint our constituencies and all the members of our party with the responsibility we have assumed of running this government.

The senatorial victory of the Nacionalistas does not mean that we have to renounce our responsibility or that we have to turn over this administration to the Nacionalistas. We still have our duty, we still have our responsibility, and we still have the privilege and opportunity to accomplish those which we believe we can finish before the end of two years.

I am very much concerned about the realization of a great portion of our program of administration. It is necessary that I call upon you to assist me effectively in carrying out this program so that after two years we shall be able and prepared to present to the electorate a bill of accomplishments that will form the basis of our aspiration for further enjoyment of the confidence of the people in running the affairs of the nation.

Tomorrow, therefore, it is imperative that you remember this great responsibility. It is important that you get together and leave nothing undone in your effort to advance our political position. We must reconcile or adjust our apparent differences which people interpret as a weakness on our part. We must act with more courage and determination, and with a higher sense of duty. This is the only way by which we can accomplish our task.

When I read my message tomorrow, I will recommend ten measures on which I ask for your early action, especially on the appropriation which we need to provide typhoon sufferers and victims of the Hibok-Hibok disaster with immediate relief. I will ask you also to adopt such measures as may be necessary to give further relief to the coconut planters. I observed in my visits to Cebu, Samar, Leyte, and Masbate, that many coconut plantations have been devastated in such a way that they will require from three to seven years to recover. Perhaps we may have to revise the assessment of those plantations, such revision to be in force for at least three years so as to afford the people sufficient time to adjust themselves while they may switch to other agricultural and industrial activities. To require them to pay the same rate of taxes when the coconuts are no longer bearing fruit would be unnecessary cruelty.

I hope we shall not have to recommend a new measure. My first impression was that we could authorize the provincial board to make immediate reassessment in the provinces affected and enforce a readjusted assessment for a period of three years as a measure of relief to typhoon sufferers in the coconut region.

I have seen many schools, bridges, and municipal buildings blown down in a good number of municipalities. Reconstruction in those places would be almost impossible without any assistance from the provincial or national governments. These municipalities must be helped, but the national government no longer appropriates funds for such purpose. So special appropriations must be provided for them. I will include this in the special appropriation which I am going to recommend as a relief to typhoon sufferers.

You will recall that in 1948 we had as much as four million pesos approved and set aside for relief in case of calamity or disaster, or other emergency. That sum used to be managed by the PACSA, now a part of the Social Welfare Administration. The amount was reduced to one million pesos in the last appropriation. It now turns out that there is nothing left for the victims of the Hibok-Hibok volcano and the typhoon sufferers.

As you well know, I had to resort to appeals to the public for contributions with which to supplement the amount made available from sweepstakes funds. We need a more substantial sum from charitable people. We need at least ₱1,300,000 to cover the difference between what is available from the sweepstakes funds and the total amount to be distributed to the typhoon sufferers and volcano victims. It will thus be necessary to recreate or restore the original amount appropriated four years ago in order to provide relief in case of further disaster and calamity.

The reason for reducing the appropriation was the suspicion that the four million pesos was being utilized by the administration for electoral purposes. We did use part—of the money to hire a number of social workers, inspectors and, in some cases, political leaders in order to accommodate senators and congressmen. However, what we spent for that purpose was quite negligible to justify the reduction of the original sum, especially because of the great benefit that could be derived from it in, times of stress.

So I recommend that you consider the necessity of recreating or restoring that amount for our reserve in case of calamity. The weather authorities have come to the conclusion that we now have here a regular typhoon belt which easily passes from the southeast, striking only Samar, Leyte, and other neighboring provinces. They have discovered that the belt has been widened to include even Northern Mindanao. It sweeps over Cebu, Panay, Palawan, and Mindoro, as well as the northern provinces from southern Luzon to Cagayan.

With this climatic condition to be reckoned with, we must have some reserve with which to help the people in case another typhoon, perhaps worse than Wanda and Amy, may batter our shores in the future. So, let us consider seriously how to aid or rehabilitate typhoon sufferers in case another calamity should smite us once more.

Other measures I am recommending in my message will be of similar importance to all of us. One of them is the creation of a rural credit bank. This is important because we are trying to speed up production. We are encouraging small farmers and tenants to produce more. Such bank will extend credit facilities to them without much red tape in the form sometimes of character loans. Even the most modest Chinese retailer or merchant can now obtain such loans from the Bank of Communications and the Bank of China. This encouragement has been responsible for the flourishing trade of small Chinese retailers. The same thing can be extended to our farmers and tenants.

The proposed rural credit banks, according to studies made by the Central Bank, will be distributed in strategic points of the Philippines. They will be directly supervised by the Central Bank and supplied with capital to be taken as initial investment from the counterpart peso fund of the ECA aid so that we shall not have to make a special appropriation to begin with. The counterpart peso fund will be accumulated for equipment and supplies to promote industrial and agricultural expansion and will be sufficient to help organize the initial fund to be created under the proposed bill.

Another bill I consider of importance now, and it is the fruit of my observation, is an amendment to the land law, limiting the area that can be sold or leased to people. According to investigations that I ordered made, many people who have applied for lands—thousands of hectares of lands—have not cultivated the land. Some of the lands have

been abandoned or neglected. Others have become the subject of speculation. A good number of our people are rushing to Mindanao, particularly from the Visayan Islands. When they occupy lands there they discover that such lands have already been leased or purchased by some scheming individuals.

We must break these big landholdings. Those absentee landlords are still in Manila, and many of them are your friends. They do not cultivate the lands. They are just waiting for others to sublease them and get something out of nothing. In reality they have not invested anything. All that they do is prove that they own the title and they can dispose of the lands as they please. These lands should be broken in such a manner that only those that the owners can cultivate should be retained by them. Future applicants should be given only a limited portion of land so as to make room for those who want to go to Mindanao. So many people in Luzon are now attracted by the prevailing atmosphere of tranquility in Mindanao, especially after observing the success attained by the settlers in Capatagan and a great part of Cotabato Valley. They go south every day, looking for lands. You will find them squatting on squatters. I think a time will come when serious conflicts will arise in Davao and Cotabato because the men are fighting for the right to cultivate the same lands.

In view of the situation, the land law must be amended so that the landless and those who have very little land will have a better chance of cultivating those idle lands heretofore made the subject of speculation by some people.

Another bill I want to include in my message is the revision of the minimum wage law. We have encountered great difficulties in enforcing the law because we have not inserted a provision in the law to compel employers to register all their laborers, how much each of them earns, and how long each of them works.

We have an eight-hour labor law, but it is practically ignored. In the campaign for a more vigorous enforcement of this law, we should take advantage of the opportunity to revise the minimum wage law and the workmen's compensation law, as well as the law on rice tenancy, which has been the cause or source of an endless conflict between the landowners and tenants in Central Luzon, particularly in Tarlac and Pampanga, because different interpretations are given to the sharing basis which has left many bewildered and confused.

The tenancy law must be clarified so as to avoid further conflict and headache on the part of the government which has to suppress violence and riots resulting from misunderstandings as to the real meaning of the law.

Another bill I have in mind to include is an amendment to the Election Law. Flying voters must be eliminated.

We must do the eliminating ourselves and not let our political adversaries initiate the move.

The most important bill to be considered is the one appropriating funds for the typhoon sufferers. If we are going to give relief to the people at all, we must act immediately before there is hunger or much suffering. We cannot enact laws or carry out legislative program unless we are guided by a spirit of discipline based on a deep sense of responsibility to carry out our program of action.

I therefore recommend that you get together in both houses, pull together, assume the responsibility, and see if you can attract other elements to support our stand because it is imperative that we fulfill our commitments to the electorate in a manner that will insure the welfare of our people.

For the time being, if there is anything that you think ought to be done on my own initiative, let me know it because I want to be in perfect understanding, in perfect harmony, and in perfect helpfulness with you. I wish you would show me the same spirit. (*Applause.*)

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the Liberal Party Caucus. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(1), 35-40.

Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino before the members of the U.T.O.P.

**Extemporaneous remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the members of the U.T.O.P.**

[Delivered at Cocktails, Malacañan Palace, January 27, 1952]

I am very happy indeed, ladies and gentlemen, to receive you at the palace instead of my visiting you in open convention. There is a big difference between my visiting you and your visiting me. If I go to you, I must have something to tell you. If you come to me, you are the ones to talk to me and I can listen to you. And it is better that you come to me because I lack the knowledge and preparation to speak at length on the subject with which each and every one of you is especially acquainted or on which you are an authority. As a matter of fact, I am placed at a disadvantage, like the poor, unprepared preacher who, in order to save himself from embarrassment, had to tell his people frankly, "Ladies and gentlemen, I don't know much about what you are going to talk about." On my part, I will explain here. I don't know much about technical knowledge or technology either, nor about those industrial sciences in which you have specialized. However, I think we can agree on fundamentals. We can agree that this is an age of industrialization in our country and you have come to the forefront.

Our government has embarked upon a new adventure. Heretofore we have been regarded merely and purely, if not exclusively, as an agricultural country. We are now trying our best to tap all the possibilities of securing more income for the government. For that purpose, we are employing all the technical knowledge available in our country in order to promote industries which appear to be possible of development. So we thought hard and long in our efforts to find new avenues of engaging the technical know-how of our citizenry.

Thus, we adopted in our ambitious program—total economic mobilization—our country's industrialization which has begun with the establishment of the basic industries such as hydraulic power in Lumot, in Ambuklaw, in Maria Cristina Falls, and other places, including strategic regions like Ilocos Norte, where we have another project of harnessing the Gasgas Cascade. Perhaps we shall have to develop other water power in the Visayas and in the Bicol provinces. For the moment we are constructing a steel mill at Mariveles and a shipyard in the same place.

All these have been initiated for the purpose of furnishing our people with light and power with which to develop first our cottage industries and eventually to expand our industrial activities. Mining, metallurgy, and other minerals—all these have been exploited in the past. There is need of engaging our attention in other phases of our industrial life not only to derive income that we expect from their exploitation but also to utilize the new genius, the new technical knowledge, that our generation can offer at a time of world readjustment and industrialization.

We have observed of late that wars are no longer fought with sinews and bullets alone. Three or four decades ago the sword and the gun were usually the general weapons. Now, with atomic energy, war is won by scientists, technicians, and technologists, and not by the brave soldiers of yesteryear. The heroes of today are those who are found working in small rooms, analyzing, preparing, and putting in final shape the most dangerous weapons the world has yet known. In our age, atomic energy and atomic bombs will spell the life and death of nations.

And you in the Philippines, who specialized along these lines in preparation for our country's industrialization and for other activities, now have the opportunity to use your knowledge, your vision, and your intellect for the future stability of your country. We are scouring the whole country, going to places heretofore, untouched for possibilities of development or exploitation. We know we have enormous potentialities. We usually brag about the unlimited number of our mineral deposits. We have high class materials, all essential to our industrial program. But we have not as yet been able to locate entirely our wealth possibilities. Nor do we know exactly who will map out for us the plan of their utilization.

In the early stages of her organization Soviet Russia sent out scouts to every nook and corner of her vast territory in order to find out the possibility of producing power for her impending industrialization program. The result of so intensive and extensive a search was that they were able to evolve a general program of industrialization so aggressive and systematic that in five years they emerged as a first class power.

That was the origin of Soviet Russia's five-year plan. Since then she has been extending and continuing with the five-year plan until today. We don't know what is going on in Russia at present, but everybody believes that she is strong behind the Iron Curtain, so strong, in fact, that she now aspires to dominate the whole world.

We are not that ambitious in our country, but we, too, have the great duty to make the Philippines stronger, wealthier, and better.

Our importing technical men from abroad resulted at a time in a rivalry between Americans and Italians for the construction of the Maria Cristina Falls power plant. We thought then only a few Filipinos could understand how to dig tunnels and produce electric power from waterfalls. Although many of you thought you could do it there was not enough of that self-confidence which we should possess and you with your specialties often wondered whether you could accomplish the work or not.

Fortunately, Mr. Rodriguez showed his capacity, ability, and vision. With grim determination and the great hope and faith in the accomplishment of his task, he has assured me that this year we could inaugurate the Maria Cristina Falls power plant and fertilizer plant.

The same thing has happened at the NASSCO in Mariveles. We thought we would have to import some naval engineers to construct the shipyard there. But we did not. Mr. Abrera and his associates assumed the responsibility and the shipyard is now about to be finished. By the end of this year, I think we can also inaugurate it.

Given the opportunity, I know many of you could develop your technical knowledge, do something extraordinary and practical. It is an encouraging sign to have in our midst people who can transform this country into an industrial center.

In my early study of economics, I came across comments on how Egypt succeeded in extracting electricity from peanut shells, on how she imprisoned the wind in order to secure power to move the industries that she had. Something of that sort, perhaps, could be invented or created by you in time. I want to assure you that the government will give you every opportunity to develop yourselves so as to place you in a position to vie with other technical men in the world. I do not believe the Filipinos are a backward people, because they have shown themselves to be the equal of any people in intelligence, in skill and inventiveness.

So, I thank you for visiting me because your presence gives me encouragement to proceed with the industrialization program. I count upon you, and I am happy to acknowledge your pledge of help should I call on you.

Now, let us think of new things, inventions that will enhance and improve our national life. Even the illiterate farmers in our country farms have already devised means of producing mangoes out of season. They say they utilize smoke to kill the germs that attack mangoes. If we can make mango trees bear fruit twice instead of only once a year and can harvest rice twice instead of only once a year, possibly we can also find a way by which a hen would lay twice a day instead of only once.

This, gentlemen, may sound queer today. But science has no limit. We have conquered the sea and the air. We have annihilated distance and space. Pretty soon we will conquer the planets and the sun. With your technical knowledge, preparation, and efforts, everything is possible.

So I hope that the Filipino technologists who have gathered here this evening will find a way to utilize their intelligence and their know-how to discover something new for our country. We cannot stay stagnant. We grow

every day in wealth and in population. Our population is increasing every year by 300 to 400 thousands. We have to provide our children with all the thousand and one things that a civilized life demands.

Something must therefore be done because we cannot transfer our country, nor extend our territory or our jurisdiction as the big powers are doing in order to have an egress for an excess population. By nature our territory is limited. So we have to utilize all the power that God has given us in order to produce more and more in keeping with our growth.

Gentlemen, you and I have a great responsibility. I hope you will be wide awake, determined, and aggressive in your research so that in years to come when we meet again, you can say, "I did something after that talk." I want to check up in a year or two to see if we can do something to promote the welfare and happiness of the people which are yours and mine to serve. Thank you very much. (*Applause.*)

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino before the members of the U.T.O.P. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(1), 40-43.

Remarks of President Quirino before the members of the Philippine Constitutional Convention at the 17th anniversary of the signing of the Philippine Constitution, February 8, 1952

EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT BEFORE THE MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION AT COCKTAILS IN MALACAÑAN ON THE 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION, FEBRUARY 8, 1952.

Ladies and Gentlemen, and

Fellow Delegates to the Constitutional Convention:

I am particularly happy to receive you this afternoon because I see new faces, not only those familiar to me when 17 years ago we drafted the Constitution, but faces that seem to have disappeared from the political firmament for some time.

Last year you honored me by inviting me to your dinner and asking me to give you the address for that occasion declared by executive order to be Constitution Day every year. This year it is my privilege to honor you. I am exceedingly happy that a great many of those associated with me in the Constitutional Convention are here to recall with me those days when, in all conscientiousness, we prepared the framework of our Government.

At that time we did not envisage many of the things that we now consider necessary in order to cope with present exigencies and, perhaps, with future events. Twice we had to amend the Constitution. The later amendment did not refer substantially to the rights and duties of our citizenry. It was an act of special consideration to the citizens of the United States in the disposition and enjoyment of the right to develop and exploit our natural resources and public utilities. The first amendment fundamentally changed our legislative branches as well as the presidential term. We now believe that we may have to introduce another amendment in the sense of reverting to the old system or presenting a more modified system of government, especially with regard to the election of members of the legislative chambers and the term of the Chief Executive.

But all along we have been quite consistent and conservative in the preservation of that historic document. Seventeen years ago we drafted it but it was in force in our country practically during the last thirteen years only. It has been my luck to contribute my share during one-third of the life of the Constitution toward implementing its preservation and making it a live document for the benefit of our people and our country.

We have scattered ourselves into the different branches and activities of the Government. Many of us have remained in their professions, others have entered the judiciary, while still others have engaged in business. All along, it has been my luck to remain in the executive department and it is only in this phase of our work—our joint work—that I could recall not with false pride my modest contribution to making the Constitution a truly living document from which our people can derive substantial benefits not only for us but for our children. It has been my luck to execute the laws, to enforce obedience to the Constitution, and to protect the rights of the people and defend them to the utmost.

I may have differences of opinion with the leaders of the Government as well as with my colleagues in the Constitutional Convention, a number of them interpreting the Constitution in one way, and I interpreting it in another way. Some may have injected their personal beliefs and convictions when they approved the Constitution, while others may have entertained divergent views. There is one thing all of us have to agree, however, and that is, that that document is only a framework of government, and the framework is not the building itself. It is something we have to build on. We have to construct an edifice with walls, windows, ceiling, roofing, floors, and every other thing needed to complete the building. To express it differently, we have to give it flesh and life. We have to make it operate for the ultimate benefit of the people so that they can enjoy their rights and privileges, and not only perform the duties imposed upon them.

It has been my fortune to contribute a great portion to the task of giving flesh and substance to the Constitution. You remember that when we started the work, we were interrupted by a terrible war. When we wanted to resume our

work of construction, building and rebuilding this nation, we were all almost in tatters. We were starving and lying prostrate. We had to muster all our energies to awaken in us the courage and determination to rise from our prostration and give vim and vigor to our life as a nation.

The Republic of the Philippines is a new building, a building of our own designing. We all know that we had to bulldoze almost everything and construct new buildings on top of those destroyed or demolished. So our work was not only one of construction and reconstruction, but also of demolition. All that needed a great deal of effort.

The years from 1945 to the present have not been long enough for the people to construct a new, strong, and enduring edifice. We are still in the midst of construction and reconstruction, and are witnessing at the same time the great problems that confront us internally as well as externally. While we are being harassed internally, we are being threatened externally. While we are building here, many of our kins are undermining our work; and while we are gaining name and prestige in our country and abroad, some people are exerting their utmost to destroy that name and prestige.

It had been a very great, almost insurmountable task that we had to wrestle with during the last five or six years. My friends, today I recall those trying years with relief. What I want to tell you is that we have managed to pull through. People who were hungry in 1945 are now better fed and better clothed. People who lost their professional activities have resumed them. People who lost their farms have rehabilitated them. And people who lost property have recovered it. Many of them are even wealthier than they were before the war.

We have not only gone through the war, but have so reconstructed the material, the moral, and physical life, that it is now better, perhaps, than it was before the war. All this we have been able to do because we rose determined to reconstruct our country and build a new government and to maintain both strong and enduring.

It is my privilege to welcome you to Malacañan in a spirit of comradeship, guided by no other motive than the spirit of cooperation which steered us through during our labor seventeen years ago. I do hope that our meeting today will give us incentive to go forward hand-in-hand, shoulder to shoulder, pulling together and all bearing the burdens of nationhood.

I am particularly happy that the President of that Convention is here with us this evening. *[Applause.]* At this moment, I am reminded of what happened to President Lincoln when his former Secretary of War Stanton, tired, exasperated, and angered by the annoyances of his comrades in the National Defense, became short-tempered and sharp-tongued. Aggressive and irascible, he told President Lincoln that he could not bear to stay longer as Secretary of War because he could not stand the continuous annoyances of his comrades in the department. Calmly, President Lincoln asked him, "Who is harassing you?"

"Oh, Major General So and So."

"Hit him hard . . . write him a nasty letter . . . the worst letter that you can make . . . make it sharp, strong," Lincoln advised.

So Stanton prepared a letter. When he finished it he went to President Lincoln and read it aloud to him. At certain points where President Lincoln thought Stanton needed promptings, he interrupted to give him encouragement: "Good . . . That is right . . ." After the letter was read, President Lincoln asked: "What are you going to do with that letter now?"

Stanton folded the letter, put it in an envelope, and said, "I am going to mail it."

"Oh, forget it," Lincoln advised. "You should put it in the stove."

"What did I write this for?" Stanton inquired, puzzled.

“Well, when I was once angered,” answered Lincoln, “I wrote a similar letter. After reading it aloud to myself, I felt better but I did not mail it. I had to prepare another letter because a letter written in anger has no place in an atmosphere of calmness which the country requires when its prestige is at stake.”

A similar letter was written by Mr. Recto and I was tempted to write another. But I threw the letter into the stove, following Lincoln’s advice.

Mark Twain said, “If you are mad, count four. If you are still mad after that, simply swear. Perhaps you will swear it and forget it.”

I am glad you are here (addressing Mr. Recto). [*Applause.*] My friends, it is really encouraging to see each and every one of you here, having the same friendly faces that we used to have when we were together seventeen years ago during the Constitutional Convention.

Our task is not over. We are still building on that Constitution and I hope you will contribute your bit whether you are in the judiciary, in business, or in whatever activities you are now engaged, to the permanence of the Government that we are establishing on the framework of that Constitution. Let us make it such a real work of art that we who are still living, and our children who will follow us will feel justly proud of it. Thank you very much. [*Applause*]

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Exchange of extemporaneous remarks between President Quirino and U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance

**Exchange of extemporaneous remarks
between
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
and
U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance at the luncheon given in honor of the ambassador**

[Delivered in Malacañan, February 11, 1952]

The President's remarks:

We are gathered here this noon to give Ambassador Spruance an opportunity to know our Philippine officials. It is not unusual that we gather here for this purpose. Every time a representative of the U. S. Government comes to Manila, we always give him an opportunity to get acquainted with our officials.

It is with particular interest that I want Ambassador Spruance to meet the official set-up in the Philippines, with whom he has to deal during his incumbency in office. The business between governments are always carried on a government-to-government basis but the people called upon to deal with governments would first have to be human beings and as such, do discharge their duties with human feelings and it is necessary for us to be very close to the people responsible in those negotiations in order to interpret more sincerely, perhaps loyally and faithfully, the laws of the government he represents.

It is for this purpose that we give Ambassador Spruance a chance to meet the representatives of this country, in order to be able to size them up as well as to allow himself to be sized up by our officials. I don't have to speculate or to size him up. From the very start, I was impressed by his charming personality, earnestness, and deep concern that he has in our future security.

He is a friend. His record of service in the Orient and elsewhere shows that he will always be a friend. It is because he is a friend that we want to cultivate his friendship. I wish the best of success for Ambassador Spruance as representative of the United States here.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Exchange of extemporaneous remarks between President Quirino and U. S. Ambassador Raymond A. Spruance. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(2), 516.

Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino in launching the fifth National Fund Campaign of the Philippine National Red Cross

**Extemporaneous remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
In launching the fifth National Fund Campaign of the Philippine National Red Cross**

[Delivered at Malacañan Social Hall, February 14, 1952]

Ladies and Gentlemen, and Friends:

We are gathered again this evening as in the past to launch the annual drive for Red Cross funds. The occasion is not different from the previous ones. The only difference perhaps is that we have better reasons to collect more funds and appeal to the more liberal generosity of our people in order to provide the Red Cross with adequate finances so as to enable it to cope with the increasing calamities that the country has suffered.

You may not have noticed it, but every year that we launch a fund drive, our people seem to be beset with a greater number of calamities. Last year, we witnessed different kinds of Calamities. Our people were the victims of three typhoons that lashed the country, especially the southern portion of the Archipelago. We saw the eruption of the Hibok-Hibok Volcano and also other volcanoes but of a political nature.

In fact, we suffered physical, political, and moral calamities. But it is physical calamity that we have in mind at present. Because of these increasing calamities, we have been providing funds for the care and relief of our people.

The regularity with which calamities occur is becoming a worry to our country. Formerly, we had only one or two typhoons a year. Last year we had three. Formerly there was only one eruption of a volcano every twenty or thirty years. Now there is an eruption almost every year. Perhaps, other volcanoes may erupt again in other parts of the Philippines.

I heard the other day that an American visitor who was residing temporarily in Iloilo was alarmed by the prediction of an American scientist or geologist that someday a volcano in Iloilo would erupt and sink the whole island of Panay. The visitor got so scared that he gathered all his belongings and prepared to return to the States without loss of time.

This is but a notice or warning to us. Although we don't believe in it, we know that there are lots of volcanoes in the Philippines not only in the southern islands but also in other portions of the country.

But of one thing we can be sure. There has been an increase in the number of typhoons that have visited the Philippines in recent years. I understand the typhoon belt is extending in the Philippines from the north to the south. Mindanao, which heretofore has not been affected by typhoons, is being threatened and the northern part of Mindanao has already been threatened. Camiguin is another portion of Mindanao.

We have had for years many extinct volcanoes in the Philippines, but we don't know how many of them may suddenly erupt without giving anybody a single moment of preparation. So it is the better part of wisdom to prepare for any eventuality. The successive, almost periodic eruption of volcanoes and the frequent recurrence of typhoons have put us on our guard. We must be ready to cope with them in a more scientific manner.

The National Red Cross, I understand, has taken steps to provide funds for future eventualities. For instance, it has organized new services: the home service, which helps people in their homes not only to prepare for calamities but also to present their claims for damages in case such calamities occur. The other is the military welfare service which has to do with relief to be extended to soldiers not only here but in Korea and in other countries. Another is

the safety service—training people especially in first aid so as to prepare them to cope with any situation. All these services are necessary as they teach our people how to meet with any calamity in a scientific way. These new activities require more funds.

The increasing demand for funds and services makes it imperative that we increase every year our quota contribution. This year, therefore, the National Red Cross as well as the government has to appeal to every citizen of moderate means. I don't believe we have to appeal to the poor although many of them are even more eager and responsive than the wealthy, because they are more familiar with the work of the Philippine National Red Cross. The traditional charity of the Filipino people and their well-known hospitality give us ample assurance if not confidence of success. I am sure they will respond most generously.

This year, therefore, we have three reasons for raising additional funds: first, for relief during calamities; second, for scientific and other needs in meeting new calamities hitherto unknown to us; and, third, to perpetuate the feeling of charity because people who cherish that feeling shall never perish because God knows how to protect those who love Him.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am glad to have been able to participate in this drive and, although I am not strong enough financially to give what is expected of me as the first citizen of the country, I wish to offer to you one thousand pesos. *[Applause.]* Thank you very much.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino in launching the fifth National Fund Campaign of the Philippine National Red Cross. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(2), 522-523.

Fortieth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Fortieth Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Broadcast from Malacañan, February 15, 1952]

Fellow Countrymen:

I spoke to you last month of the 3 C's, of the urgency of concentration, cooperation, and coordination in all our work. I expressed it as a positive resolve not as a pious hope.

But while we are thus concentrating our constructive efforts to accelerate our creative momentum to maintain and expand our gains for our nation's security and welfare, we are again being distracted by power politics in many quarters.

At my expense for example, we have been unnecessarily unhappy and divided over the issue of selling sugar outside a market dependent upon a special agreement between our country and the United States. Some people in our midst have found a convenient handle in this question to create confusion, generate suspicion, and inspire division. The government action on this matter was based upon a temporary policy adopted after consultation with the representative elements of the sugar industry in my office on December 29, 1951. No person or entity was given any special privilege. And yet there were many misgivings making it appear as if I were protecting somebody.

We have not been able to wean ourselves from the inveterate habit of seeing official actuations with an invariable selfish motivation, picturing several officials, including the Chief Executive, as inspired by unholy and ulterior designs, thus spreading distrust and disaffection solely to confuse for a political advantage, stalling machinery geared for productive work.

The practice has been of such an extent as to compel the institution of criminal action to protect my name and that of the government. As head of state, I should not go to this extreme. It is the people and not one judge of first instance who should pass upon my conduct.

It is small comfort to dedicated servants that politics has not changed much down the years; that hatred, slander, and calumny have been the lot of those with the biggest problems to solve; that the victims of this national, democratic habit so called have been those who left the greatest mark on their times.

The manner in which my name is being arrogantly besmeared by sanctimonious champions of truth and virtue with parliamentary immunity has placed me before the bar of public opinion.

Again I have been erected, after a fashion, as a convenient wall for a political fronton. And opportunists continue playing their game regardless of the kind of cesta they use, as long as they can hit the wall and continue playing the game.

This pastime is what some people call one of the gifts of democracy. It permits them the freedom to say anything, freedom to destroy, freedom to assassinate the character of any man no matter in what position he may be placed in the Government or in society.

Normally, this situation might merely mean an innocent provision for comic relief. It takes on a tragic aspect for us when we consider how much time presses for the prosecution of a job so vital to our people's security and well-being, and there is such little precious time to spare.

For the real sufferer in this situation is not Elpidio Quirino, or any other individual similarly placed. The real sufferer is the community, the nation, that has been led to expect constructive effort and undistracted devotion of those chosen to labor for its safety and well-being. The common good is made to wait upon the thoughtless vagaries of politics, it is sacrificed for the exigencies of personal ambition.

That this is a chronic condition in a democracy under whatever sky, does not of necessity require our people to remain helpless and impotent pawns in a selfish game of power.

The untoward result comes of purely human actuation and therefore is within the power of human action to correct. If there is evil in the genius of men under a democracy, there is also good. It becomes a question of making good preempt evil. It is an article of our democratic faith that free men are in a better position to fulfill their genius for good if they are so minded.

My dear friends, the time has come for our people to adopt a more sober attitude in the exercise of democratic rights. There has been too much ill-wishing, not to say malice, injected and generated in the discussions of serious problems of state. Public discussion has deteriorated into wasteful expenditure of heat, instead of dispensing light basic to constructive action. It has bred irresponsibility and confusion to the benefit alone of the professional subverters of our free institutions.

And so it is that politics, exaggerated ambitions, a monopolistic pretension to virtue—all these joined many times over create the unwholesome, murky and poisonous atmosphere that precludes concentrated, effective attention to our constructive pursuits.

This is a great pity. Our people have the capacity, the conviction, the power to press a constructive program of action forward to advantage if they will but put their mind to it. We have done it in the last few years in the face of many obstructions not wholly of our own creating and quite beyond our control.

But today I submit that with many of such difficulties overcome, with the measure of recovery we have so far achieved, most of the obstacles that remain impeding a faster rate of progress depend largely upon our decision and control. We are quite the master of our future, and all we need is the self-imposed discipline that spells mastery.

I appeal to you all therefore for greater discipline in the conduct of our affairs as a democracy. This is not to shield the sensibilities of a head of state who has not ceased to be a human being. It is to save our people the needless suffering and deprivation consequent on inability to act constructively because of a perpetual state of strife that is petty, political, and personal.

It is a grateful and gratifying experience to get a confirmation from the most rabid critics of this administration that today our country has entered a period of rebirth. You can be sure that it was no accident that our people have bridged the chasm of despair, rediscovered themselves, and have filled their lungs with the invigorating air of freedom. Our people certainly can do much more, infinitely more, if they take care not to fritter that invigorating air to generate petty partisanship, class or regional hate, confusion, and mutual suspicion.

For my own part, it should not be necessary to proclaim that I have no share in any corporation, no interest in any business—as I have none indeed, and never had any. I do say that I am proudly in a position to follow the dictates of my conscience without fear or favor to anybody. I am confident that time will vindicate me. But I certainly demand strict observance of the established policies and decisions as well as the business of the state, seeing that the laws are properly executed, as is my sworn duty.

My only aspiration is to live and be able to say to my successor: A sick man, I undertook the care of a weak country still sick of war wounds. Devotedly, I gave my all to seek its recovery. I am now delivering it to you, healthy, strong, and respected. True to my ambition, I am returning home fortunately to rejoin the poor to which I belong.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Fortieth monthly radio chat of the President, broadcast from Malacañan, February 15, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(2), 523-526.

Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the inauguration of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation Building

**Extemporaneous remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the inauguration of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation Building**

[Delivered on February 16, 1952]

Ladies and Gentlemen, and Friends:

I am happy indeed to be with you this afternoon, as I considered the occasion as my homecoming to this institution. I was once vice president of the Agricultural and Industrial Bank, and for all I know the RFC is but a development, an expansion of that bank. All the activities undertaken by the Agricultural-Industrial Bank are the same as those in which the RFC is now engaged.

Of course, the dream of organizing this institution belongs to one of our most illustrious statesmen. This building, therefore, is an architectural symbol of our efforts to reconstruct our country, giving stress to our economic development as the basis of our permanent existence. This is a beautiful realization of a more beautiful dream. President Roxas was rich in vision and intellect. People who dream beautiful dreams do not dream long because if they dream long the castle they build in their minds become smaller every minute that they think of it. Were President Roxas alive today, I know he would still not be satisfied with this building although it is beautifully constructed. There were many things behind the dream not expressed or embodied in this edifice; and they were things of beauty. It is easy to dream but hard to make the dream come true. Under difficult circumstances we have executed my distinguished predecessor's beautiful dream. It has fallen upon me to realize one of them.

I am reminded of an incident. One morning, I drove through Plaza Goiti sandwiched between President Roxas and Mrs. Roxas. We were then just inaugurated as President and Vice President of the Republic. We passed through the main thoroughfares up to Dewey Boulevard conversing. Mrs. Roxas asked her husband, "What are you going to do with all those buildings?" pointing to the Post Office, the Legislative Building, the departments of finance and agriculture, and the Manila Hotel in the vicinity. And Roxas answered, "Well, we have plans for the small ones. The bigger ones, I will leave them to Quirino." *[Applause.]*

One of the first things I did when I assumed office was to go over the same territory and make a survey of what could be done to them in order to rehabilitate the bigger buildings.

We now have plans to reconstruct our home industries and revive all the activities that flourished before the war. The most important thing then was to reconstruct the big buildings pointed out by Mrs. Roxas. We had at that time ₱25 million earmarked for the construction of the capitol at the new capitol site. I saw to it, through the representative of the United States Government in Manila, that part of that amount be diverted to finance the reconstruction of the Finance Building, the Agriculture Building, and the Legislative Building, the rest to be spent for the construction of schools and municipal buildings in provinces and municipalities which were still unable to reconstruct their buildings.

The plan was realized and in less than a year after my assumption of office, the Legislative, the Finance, and the Agriculture buildings were reconstructed. That was just the beginning of our huge program of reconstruction. There were many others which we had to reconstruct but we planned also for the financing of their reconstruction.

Heretofore—at least during the last three or four months—we have witnessed the inauguration of new buildings constructed by private entities. I became almost a professional sponsor for so many buildings dedicated to agricultural, commercial, and industrial activities. I have considered it one of the best pastimes to go from one new building to another, all devoted to constructive enterprises and be a centerpiece of the inauguration ceremony.

Today, I am proud to have been able to reach this place, recall the difficulties the Agricultural and Industrial Bank had to go through, and witness the wonderful achievement of the RFC, the happy realization of the most beautiful dream of a great man. . . .

My dear friends, the so-called total economic mobilization program referred to by Governor Mapa has been derided or disparaged, but it is bearing fruit. It may be high-sounding, but it is as great an aspiration as the dream of past thinkers and statesmen now being realized.

This year we will begin inaugurating other projects. Tomorrow, I will go to Mariveles and inspect the almost half-completed construction of the shipyards and steel mill being undertaken by the National Development Company. These projects will be inaugurated about the end of the year.

Last year I went to Maria Cristina, Lanao to see how the hydroelectric power is harnessed. I have been told that by the latter part of 1953 that project, that is, the hydroelectric and the fertilizer projects, will be finished.

Pretty soon we shall be inaugurating other projects. We have made a good beginning. I am sure we shall have as good an ending. We have enough funds to finance the continued construction of a huge program of hydroelectric power plant in the Mountain Province, the Ambuklao hydroelectric project. We have the \$10 million granted by the Export and Import Bank as well as the funds set aside from our own for the same project. The basic industries will contribute to the development of cottage industries which will distribute as widely as possible material progress.

Other projects are included in this much disparaged total economic mobilization program. I shall not recite them at this moment. However, I want you to observe the trend of events in the nation's activities and check up on what we said in 1948. Perhaps you will fully agree with us that that program was not launched in vain.

My friends, the Philippines has risen as one of the most progressive and wide-awake countries in this part of the world. People who have come to the Philippines from abroad, whether from the new or the old world, are one in extolling to the skies the efforts we have exerted and the rapidity with which we have been able to rise from our prostration.

I said once, and I want to repeat it today, that we need more encouragement, more cheerfulness, more positive thinking in order to carry out our program of national stability. The RFC is one of the manifestations of our determination to rehabilitate our country. After having developed and financed great industries, our program will be directed to smaller entities to increase our units of production.

Recently, I conceived the idea of creating rural credit banks. Our farmers in the rural districts, although not neglected, have not been able to borrow loans to finance their enterprises. It is necessary that the Government establish financial branches in regions of production in order to reach our farmers and promote their industrial activities. Such branches must be distributed so that they will be able to give financial assistance, at least in the beginning, in the form of credit loans at least as liberal as those extended by foreign institutions to their nationals. I don't see why we should show such lack of confidence in our own countrymen when foreign institutions are giving liberal loans and showing confidence in their nationals. Why should we be so strict about giving credit when we see what is happening around us?

Rural banks or credit institutions should be created in order to spread financing benefits and liberal credit should be extended to productive regions to enable the rural people to secure proper improvement. We are now definitely on an upward trend, despite critics, deprecators, and detractors who like to paint a dark future just to fool others if not themselves.

Our life today is much better than before the war. Why should we discourage ourselves? Who is going to encourage us when we need occasionally a pat in the back? Who is going to give us the proper encouragement? We must develop confidence in ourselves and confidence in our future. We must take advantage of the opportunity offered us as we rise in prestige economically, politically, and internationally.

My friends, these are but the beginning of our national effort. I refer to the heroic efforts of our people when they rose from our prostration more determined than ever. This building has been built through such efforts. We have to spread that invincible spirit not only in this organization but in every other constructive pursuit. I want this organization to take advantage of the present favorable trend so that we may see soon the Philippines become beautiful, peaceful, and as strong as any other country on the face of the earth. *[Applause.]*

And to give you encouragement, I wish to make a pledge that since this institution, instead of just being a service institution, has made profits after rendering its services, I will give it every amount possible provided it will establish ignore branches in producing regions. *[Applause.]* Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you. *[Applause.]*

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the inauguration of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation Building. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(2), 526-529.

Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the awarding of plaques to the Philippines' Most Outstanding Professionals

**Extemporaneous remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the awarding of plaques to the Philippines' Most Outstanding Professionals**

[Delivered at Malacañan Social Hall, February 17, 1952]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It looks as if there was a connivance between the organizers of this evening's program and the office of the chief executive . . . because the certificate which was just read and awarded to me is the biggest of all those awarded here.

I want to thank Dr. Dalupan on behalf of the men in charge of the Golden Jubilee of the Public Educational System for having found time to perform the task of presenting the certificate and the medal to me.

We are gathered here this evening principally to recognize the splendid records of service of the awardees in their respective fields. This hall, which is better known as the Social Hall of Malacañan, will henceforth be named the Hall of Fame. For the past four or five years, this hall has witnessed the awarding and presenting of certificates and medals and all kinds of recognition for excellence ranging from the Mother of the Year, the Father of the Year, the Educator of the Year., to the most outstanding representatives of the professions whose awards have just been received by them.

Indeed, I was quite disgusted at the beginning when I discovered that there was no award for the legal profession. When I asked Dr. Eraña why the lawyers were excluded, he gave a plausible explanation. In the first place, he said, "the bar examiners don't belong to our association. They are members of the supreme court. But the most valid reason is the fact that the lawyers have disagreed after consultations with their respective associations, as to who is the most outstanding member of their profession."

But there should be an award also to a politician. If you don't want the legal profession to be represented, at least you should recognize the politicians as the architects of the Republic. You scan the history of every nation and you will realize that the politicians are the ones who build the nations. And the politicians are the professionals among the professionals. They come from different professions. There are lawyers, pharmacists, engineers, opticians, farmers, nurses, and members of other professions known to mankind. And these compose the set of officials that build the nation and direct its affairs. They are often disparaged and abused because of politics. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that after the political fight is over, many of us survive the ordeal and manage to be at the head of the state or to assume the position which gives us the opportunity to direct the country's affairs. So, whether you like it or not, the politicians, as professionals, have been regarded as the architects of each nation. They are the architects of the Republic of the Philippines. Now, why should we not award a certificate to the politicians?

The certificate I received this afternoon was not in recognition of my being a politician but of my having been a *barrío* school teacher who rose to the Presidency. I am receiving this certificate as a public servant and not as a politician. Still I hope to be able to receive one from you some day as a successful politician in spite of my seemingly numerous ill-wishers, detractors, and political debunkers.

My friends, the awardees this afternoon are the real architects of this Republic. The politicians, those placed in a position to direct the affairs of the state, cannot accomplish or achieve the national objective without the assistance of the specialists and technicians in the proper implementation of national policies.

I won't mind being criticized for the reduced number of our professions which have been the recipients of awards this evening so long as you have the quality. It is not the number of professions that counts. Rather, it is the quality of the service and the distinction shown. In this sense, the Philippines in proportion is not far behind in achievement, in new contributions to world progress, or to civilization these recent years. Our representatives, who have been going to international conventions, conferences, unions, and assemblies, have shown not only ability to discuss professional matters but also ability to adjust themselves as the exigencies of the moment demand.

Something more than mere technical knowledge is needed to insure the success of a nation's activities. These different professions represent various and perhaps unorganized threads of human activity. When the time comes for us to weave all these threads into the warp and woof of our national development, we weave them into the pattern of our national life. The work of our professionals has been recognized as part of our accomplishment as a civilized nation.

We have received lavish praises from our friends the seas. We are not going to rest content with such praises. They serve merely as an incentive for us to go farther, or reach out higher. The Philippines needs many things we have not yet realized.

In an informal talk I delivered to the UTOP two or three weeks ago when they gathered at Malacañan to greet me, I suggested several new things which I think ought to be accomplished if we are to develop our country to the utmost possible, in accordance with our resources and the great capacity of our people to avail themselves of new inventions and new discoveries which have been the basis of many modern advances in our constructive activities. But there is something more to expect from our people. We are known to have great aptitude for learning. We have already shown how quickly we have learned how to produce two harvests of rice a year instead of only one.

We have learned how to raise better fruits which have given us name and fame outside the Philippines. The mango is one of them. I understand many of our farmers have succeeded in making the seeds smaller and the flesh bigger.

At the same time, we have been able to secure or discover a new variety of rice. This rice need not be planted twice a year. Once is enough. It is called Winketon. It grows like cogon. Once planted, all that the farmer has to do is water it, fertilize it, and when the grains come out, he harvests them. Then you wait for the next harvest as the roots will sprout again and yield new grains.

That is one discovery. I am wondering whether we could also make other discoveries, such, for instance, as making a hen lay two or three times a day instead of only once or making cows bear two or three calves, and mares three or four colts instead of only one. This sounds rather unusual. Perhaps for the moment it provokes laughter, but science has no limit. We have discovered many things which in time will enable us to approach the moon. We never knew before that we could fly across the space or talk across the seas or through the air. All that is now a reality and more. Science is being developed with amazing speed and we can always utilize the latest scientific advances and discoveries.

In our country, we are learning a lot more things. If our scientists are as up-to-date and wide awake, as I think they are, I have no doubt that they can go much farther and discover more things which will enable us to realize our national objective faster. Why don't we start right now? I appeal especially to the scientists, the chemists, and the engineers to work on something which would permit us to convert cassava into alcohol. I understand cassava is a source of alcohol.

Somewhere in Egypt, people learned how to produce electricity out of peanut shells. They even discovered how to imprison the wind and convert it into motive power. All this could well be used to our own advantage.

Ladies and gentlemen, we need to invent new things. Our territory is limited. So is our population. It is our duty and responsibility to do our utmost to accelerate discoveries and inventions for the advancement of our country and people. We must not be content with giving or receiving awards. We must make specific and positive contributions. We must show to the world that what we contribute is of value and benefit to man. In this way, we can improve the lot of this generation and the generations to come.

I want to give the greatest encouragement to the activities of this association by extending full recognition to the men and women who distinguish themselves in their respective professions. I will make its decision an official one and recognize its awards as official. I shall be very happy and proud to be with you again next time or next year. I wish to see more awards given to men and women such as those the association has distinguished this evening. I know we have more men and women who can discover new things with which to contribute to the stability of the state, the happiness and distinction of the Filipino people and our Republic.

Ladies and gentlemen, I congratulate you all for the efficient manner in which you have selected the awardees. It was a painstaking process. You have done the work wisely and conscientiously. I hope that in the future we shall have more men and women of this type of whom we can justly be proud. Thank you very much.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the awarding of plaques to the Philippines' Most Outstanding Professionals. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(2), 529-532.

Extemporaneous Talk of President Quirino during the inauguration of the PMC building

Extemporaneous Talk of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines During the inauguration of the PMC building

[Delivered at the Port Area, March 7, 1952]

INDUSTRIALIZING THE PHILIPPINES¹

At long last I have been able to collect for my unpaid services as the first agent of the Philippine Manufacturing Co. (*Laughter*) in the sale of Camay soap in the United States in February, 1950. I was still at the time sick at the Johns Hopskins Hospital when the first box of Camay cakes was sent to me in my room for the purpose of distributing them to my friends at the hospital and to everybody else who had a chance to see me. I thought then that I was being made an unpaid agent of this company. But now, I am collecting.

This box of Camay presented to me this afternoon represents the 49 millionth cake of Camay made. It is not only beautiful, but the girl who presented it is also beautiful. I do appreciate it. It makes me happy to be with you this evening because as I promised when you were about to construct this building I would be very glad to be present, not exactly to inaugurate it officially, but to share in your happiness for having erected here another unit to beautify the city of Manila.

The national government has now spent no less than P60 thousand as I ordered the planting of trees, the cleaning of pavements, and the preparation of the grounds of the grandstand so that visitors will enjoy more the beauty of Luneta. Our aspiration is to make the city more beautiful than it was before the war. It has given us an opportunity to beautify the city, widen its streets, and expand the city limits without much cost. It is gratifying to note that business has thrived in conjunction with the beautification of the city of Manila.

Nobody thought before the war that this country could be industrialized. Importers of goods from the United States, Europe and elsewhere discouraged us from industrializing this country. They must have thought they would cease to have customers here if we produced articles to replace or compete with those manufactured in their respective countries. But the war opened our eyes. During the Japanese occupation our people saw the need of utilizing every product that they could lay their hands on in order to provide us with the prime necessities during the darkest days of Japanese occupation. They began to make flour out of cassava. They even made salad out of water lily. They learned how to use the *kangkong*. Even *camote* leaves proved to be a delicious salad then.

Some of my neighbors on Colorado street never tasted *puto* before the war. But during the war, due to lack of bread, they would wake up early in the morning to buy *puto* from, the pretty girls who were peddling it. They learned to eat *puto* and to like it. This is one of the many ways we learned in our effort to convert native products as a substitutes for goods imported before the war.

There is a manifest industrial awakening in the country today. We are encouraged not only by the import control but also by the example of our friends across the seas, who are establishing manufacturing units in the Philippines. One of these pioneers is the PMC, which for the last 44 years has been manufacturing soap.

This company has now many competitors in the manufacture of soap. I understand there are no less than 150 soap factories in Manila today. Pretty soon, the cheap Chinese soap that we use for our laundry will disappear because we will produce cheaper and better soap from our own raw materials. I have noticed that soap manufacturers at home and in the United States have been placed at a disadvantage by the continued imposition of coconut excise tax in the United States.

I have just come from the coconut region, the Bicol region. I have seen big coconut groves devastated by the three recent typhoons. I was told that it would take seven years to rehabilitate the trees and that in the next three years the owners will be unable to gather fruits. Perhaps it might be more economical for the owners to fell the palms and plant new ones which would bear fruit within five years instead of waiting for another seven years.

Everywhere I went in the Bicol provinces I received representations. They are unanimous in their demand for the abolition of the coconut oil excise tax. I had to send a cable from Legaspi to Ambassador Romulo asking him to appear before the legislative and the executive offices of the Federal Government and secure the approval of a bill abolishing the coconut excise tax and, if necessary, to see at the first opportunity President Truman and express to him my personal interest in the matter. General Romulo has reported that he had done the first, but did not say whether he had seen President Truman. However, we will not stop in our campaign because it means a lot to millions of people who are dependent upon the coconut industry. If the excise tax is not abolished, some factories in the United States may find it necessary to move to the Philippines and manufacture here the soap that they are producing there. I wish this would happen. If I had my own way, if I could only discourage soap manufacturers in the United States from continuing the operation of their factories there, I would have them manufacture all the soap here and export it to the United States, instead of having us import it from that country. (*Applause*). This may eventuate because I understand 80% of the soap ingredients are available in the Philippines. Only caustic soda comes from the United States. Oil and salt we have here in abundance.

We have discovered so many raw materials in our country today that we can industrialize the Philippines much easier than we ever expected. We have now a bottle factory, a fertilizer plant. We have discovered great quantities of raw materials for the manufacture of bottles. We have mounds of silica sand in Palawan and in Ilocos Norte. I saw another in the Bicol region recently in my trip around the bay of Legaspi, between Legaspi and Virac. We have also found raw materials for the manufacture of fertilizers, which are a good substitute for sulphur. The pyrite deposits in Antique, I understand, are sufficient to furnish raw materials for the fertilizer plant in Maria Cristina, which will be completed by the end of the year.

With the discovery, of so many raw materials and the variety of materials that can be cheaply obtained in our vicinity, plus the incentive of manufacturers for the establishment of factories because of the import controls, and the new enthusiasm that has been permeating the life and soul of our businessmen, I am quite sure the country is no longer in the experimental stage. We are industrializing the Philippines. As soon as the basic industries are completed, we shall be able to furnish all the electric current and power to move them.

Two weeks ago, I went to Mariveles to see the progress of work in the national shipyards. I saw a small generator beside the factory being erected and I asked the engineer, "Will this be enough to mobilize all your units here?" "No," he said. "We expect to get electric power from the Ambuklao." Do you know where the Ambuklao is? It is way up in the Mountain province. Imagine how electric current will travel all the way from the Mountain Province down to Mariveles, and mobilize the shipyards there. In the same manner the electric current will travel from the hydroelectric plant in Maria Cristina Falls in Lanao to all points of Mindanao and possibly Visayas. Imagine what that means to our people and our industries. The electric power to be generated from the Maria Cristina hydroelectric plant with other subsidiaries will be sufficient to mobilize a net of trains to service the whole island of Mindanao and all the necessary communication, transportation of freight and passengers.

This basic industry we are now establishing in the Philippines will guarantee not only cheap electric current but the availability of all the power that we may need in order to promote the numerous home industries or cottage industries. There is no doubt that if we concentrate our attention on this, if all those who can contribute with their capital and technical knowledge will extend a helping hand so as to enable our people to secure all possible sources of material needed to begin the basic industries we are establishing, within the next two years we shall see our country bustling with whistles of factories erected in strategic places of production.

And this brings me to a point which I think ought to be borne in mind, especially by those who would like to invest their money here. We have a very bad habit of competing with one who has already established a profitable industry. For example, one gentleman, Mr. Marcelo, bought the nail factory of the National Development Company two years ago. When other people saw that the nail factory was profitable, they immediately went into it. Today, we have 30 nail factories in the Philippines. The same thing happens with other industries. Take the taxicab business. One

family discovered he could manage to have four or five taxicabs and make money out of the operation. Seeing how it prospered, others followed suit. The result is that we have now so many taxicab companies in operation and competition until the business becomes disastrously unprofitable to the operators.

There must be a method of concentrating our activities in strategic places. The same thing is true of the manufacture of articles. Let us develop our country into productive regions. In Bicol, for instance, we could establish all the factories that will utilize coconut raw products or abaca. The same could be done in Davao. There must be a systematic development of these industries in different regions where the raw materials abound and where there are better advantages. The same thing applies to mining and forestry. We should put all our mills near the places where raw materials can be easily obtained.

This government has to admit that it made a mistake when it established a mill for finished lumber in Batangas when the raw materials come from Agusan or Mindoro. It was a very costly mistake but the government learned a lesson and we should take advantage of that lesson so as not to commit the same mistake.

Footnote:

¹Extemporaneous talk, inauguration of the PMC building, Port Area, March 7, 1952.

Source: **Quirino Foundation**

Quirino, E. (1952). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

41st Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Forty-first monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines To his fellow countrymen

[Broadcast from Malacañan, March 15, 1952]

My Fellow Countrymen:

Our political firmament is darkening again with increasing war clouds. Once more the national atmosphere is becoming surcharged with intense personal hate, factional hostility, and political suspicion, not only as an aftermath of the last elections and recent intramural party squabbles, but apparently or most assuredly in anticipation of the forthcoming fight for control of the administration.

Although this contest is not going to be staged until twenty months hence, our people are now being distracted and made to forget the immediate dangers of a bigger war in the vicinity. The verbal cannonades now resounding in the halls of Congress and political caucuses are rendering the ears of many of our responsible leaders insensible to the explosions of real cannons and bombs in the war theaters in our neighborhood and the dangers they pose to our national welfare and security.

And what is worse, the basic operations of laying stone by stone in the farms, in the factories, in the mines, and in the forests, for the earnest building of this country and its defenses are being ignored or stalled. People are being lulled into a delusion that they can afford the luxury of resting on their oars, of stopping to promote and admire the wasteful fireworks that are now diverting the attention of the nation from the vast construction job at hand which is in the height of execution.

I have just returned from a trip to the Bicol provinces. I spent six days of study and observation of the needs and problems of that region. I was grateful to observe that the people, even the barrio folk, that I met had not as yet been dragged into the whirlwind of political or partisan rage lashing other regions, to the great injury and prejudice of the permanent interests of the country.

Predominantly a Nacionalista stronghold, the Bicol region accorded me a very pleasant welcome during my whole tour, affording me an opportunity to discuss without political or partisan bias the peculiar problems of each political subdivision visited. In the same spirit I reacted immediately, solving many of such problems on the spot where opportunity and available facilities permitted. I pause to deny that I ever made the statement that no Nacionalista should be helped by the administration. As a matter of fact, I promised to give the Congressman from Daet, Camarines Norte, ₱29,000 for the reconstruction of the municipal building. That was when the Nacionalista mayor appealed to me for assistance. The same thing I did in Virac, a Nacionalista town. When the governor, a Nacionalista, and the mayor, another Nacionalista, appealed to me for assistance to rehabilitate their emergency hospital and convert it into a provincial hospital, I immediately promised and have already ordered the sending of ₱10,000 for the necessary equipment. I ordered the construction with an initial release of ₱50,000 for the construction of the provincial hospital building of the province. And in Sorsogon, another Nacionalista mayor appealed to me for the construction of an annex to the provincial hospital. I immediately promised to help because I knew that we had funds for such purpose. These are just small matters perhaps, in comparison with the greater and more numerous and I promised, especially in connection with the construction of irrigation projects and for the improvement of those in the vicinity. There was mutual receptiveness between host and visitor. I have nothing but praise and appreciation for the correct and enviable conduct of fellow countrymen that I met. This is without any exception.

Again I am convinced more than ever before that that region is a real asset to our national economy. All it needs is the proper incentive and encouragement in the exploitation of its rich natural resources. Extended the proper assistance in the construction of irrigation projects, the rehabilitation of its ports, the harnessing of some of its beautiful waterfalls for hydraulic power or water system, the promotion and development of its peculiar potentialities for tourist attraction, the region promises to be a substantial mainstay of the nation. I was deeply impressed by the earnestness and serious concern of the inhabitants in the rapid development of their resources.

The coconut and abaca industries are uppermost in their mind. The resumption of the mixing activities, especially in Camarines Norte, is stirring the people's spirit of enterprise, reawakening their faith in their bright future. The atmosphere of the whole region is constructive. This is in keeping with the spirit of the new epoch. I found the same spirit animating the inhabitants of Eastern Visayas, particularly Leyte and Samar, which I visited two months ago. This is the spirit that should pervade the whole country today.

In our industrial awakening as well as in war, we need a moral rearmament to steel our mind and soul in the prosecution of our objectives. And we can only do this by opening our eyes to realities.

Idle talk or abstract theorizing cannot move our people to action. Examples demonstrative of accomplishments are needed to convince and inspire our people to similar deeds.

This is what we are actually doing now. With the establishment of our basic industries many of which were inaugurated in the latter part of last year, and with the inauguration of more during this year, it will be shown that our ambitious program of total economic mobilization is not a myth. Nor is it a farce or a mere shibboleth dangled before the public eye as mere propaganda.

The Lumot hydro-electric project in Laguna was inaugurated in January this year. The spinning mill of the National Development Company in Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, has been in operation since the latter part of last year.

The Maria Cristina hydro-electric plant in Mindanao will be inaugurated the first part of next year. Simultaneously, if not earlier, the fertilizer plant being constructed beside it will also be inaugurated. And the steel mill in the same vicinity will follow.

About the same period of next year the national shipyards being constructed at Mariveles will also be inaugurated. Temporarily, the shipyards will be served by an auxiliary generator now being installed. But the main power will come from the Ambuklao project, the biggest hydro-electric plant in the Island of Luzon, which is now under construction and perhaps will be inaugurated in July of 1954. This hydro-electric plant will electrify the whole region north of Manila as far as La Union and will furnish power to the cement plant to be established at Poro in San Fernando, La Union, whose cornerstone I'll lay March 22.

The numerous irrigation projects completed or being constructed in strategic regions of production constitute an eloquent testimony of our bold determination to extend agricultural development as well. Since 1948, we have completed a dozen irrigation projects covering a total area of more than 24,190 hectares. The most important of these projects are the Pampanga River irrigation in Nueva Ecija, zones 1 and 2, covering a total area of 12,000 hectares; the Maasim River irrigation project in Bulacan and Pampanga with a total area of 2,500 hectares; and the Totonugen irrigation project in Pangasinan covering 2,600 hectares. For the moment we are constructing six more, representing a total area of 18,350 hectares. The most important of these projects are the Santo Tomas river irrigation project in Zambales, which will be inaugurated by June of this year, and will cover 6,000 hectares; the Palo, Tacloban, irrigation project in Leyte now near completion, covering 4,000 hectares; and the Gumaca River irrigation project, Quezon, covering 3,500 hectares also being completed. In Iloilo, we have the Jalaur irrigation project covering 15,000 hectares. This is a 7 million project and will be finished by next year.

There are many other important projects included in the MSA (formerly EC A) assistance program which is dovetailed with our total economic mobilization program, all awaiting the allocation of funds provided by the Central Bank, as well as from the \$250 million dollars committed by the United States to finance the MSA or EGA program in the Philippines, together with the counterpart funds already approved by our Congress.

These facts may have no sense to those who unknowingly disparage our general program of development. But it is certainly not nonsense as characterized by some sour individuals whose bitter criticisms and complaints are matched only by the safety, peace, and well-being that they enjoy today in generous measure, thanks to the determined efforts of this administration to carry on with its program of peace and development despite chronic carping from the very articulate prophets of gloom and disaster.

It is time we realized, however, that we do not have unlimited time to squander in personal and partisan bickerings while work of critical urgency to our stability and safety is laid aside or made to wait indefinitely.

That we have to date achieved a measure of recovery and development as to make some people imagine we can relax for some old-fashioned fishwives quarreling, is no ground to continue tempting a benevolent Almighty.

It was widely agreed after the last election that we all needed to buckle down to work. There were resolutions even, widely announced, to act in earnest like true servants or representatives of the people. Let us get back all those fine resolutions from storage and give them consistent exercise, not only for the good of our souls but for the protection and preservation of what we now are apt to take for granted—the freedom to work out our own destiny and provide a durable setting for the fulfillment of human justice and dignity.

Nobody will wait for us forever to compose our petty and personal and costly differences. Not the kind of world we have today which is trembling on the edge of possible disaster that may not be repaired by any treaty conceivable to men or any bold new point 4 program.

Let us give ourselves, our people, a sporting chance to raise a soundly founded structure of strength equal to the challenge of our times. We must produce, stockpile, construct, and build our defenses individually and collectively. Words are no substitute for rice; nor good intentions, for heaven. Don't we often say: An empty bag cannot stand? To be sure we cannot build on complacency and idleness, much less on hate and bitterness. Let us think of our children, and give them the same opportunity which our heroic and martyred predecessors left to us to carry on with the precious heritage of our people.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Forty-first Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(3), 978-981.

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino at the luncheon given in Honor of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt

**Extemporaneous Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the luncheon given in honor of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt**

[Delivered in Malacañan, March 28, 1952]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Again we are gathered at this festive hall to celebrate an important occasion in the life of our nation. About this time on December 20, 1933, I had the distinction of sitting to the left of the distinguished gentleman at the White House who, at that moment pledged to support our campaign for independence in the United States. That was after our people had rejected the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act and President Quezon and the rest of the members of his mission, of which I was one, proceeded to the United States to secure a better independence law,

On March 24, the following year, 1934, again I had the fortune of standing behind that distinguished gentleman when he signed the Tydings-McDuffie Law at the White House, granting complete and absolute independence to the Philippines. By a fluke of fate, and perhaps fortune, on this day as I preside over the destiny of this country, I find myself to the left of no less a distinguished person whose role in the world is now recognized as one determining factor in guiding the fate of humanity. (Applause.)

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, perhaps you don't know it, but aside from your own distinguished personality in world leadership in democracy and humanity at large, the people of the Philippines love you as the depository of the affection and confidence of President Roosevelt. Our people would like to lavish to you and to the American people in general, the same love and affection and confidence, the benign influence of which made it possible for us in this country to practice democracy that is now our privilege to enjoy.

You are not merely supplementing, nor even complementing for that matter, the vision and conviction of President Roosevelt in establishing here a democracy to be the model in this part of the globe. You have a distinct personality and being; and our love for President Roosevelt is heightened by your presence with us today.

We have long suffered, especially during the last five or six years. We went through all kinds of vicissitudes and great difficulties not only in reconstructing and rehabilitating this country, but in stabilizing it so that it can cope with the situation and preserve that institution which was the object of President Roosevelt's action.

We long to have somebody to give us that encouragement, to kindle anew the determination to make us more decided to protect and make more lasting the principles of democracy further implemented here under the Tydings-McDuffie Law. President Roosevelt did not live long enough to witness the success of our venture in democracy and in freedom on our soil, but you have arrived today, and, in this fleeting moment in which you are with us, I am sure you will receive the greatest acclamation of our people, the sincerest of our people's loving affection to you and the United States because of that boon of liberty that you gave us.

You have come, therefore, to rekindle anew in us enthusiasm, widening our horizon and giving us new hopes for the preservation of national security which you and your husband helped to build. (Applause.) I know that after an hour or so you will be asked to say something to the people, I may not have the privilege to be with you but I will hear you over the radio. But before I take my seat I wish you would say something to me and to our people. I would ask the ladies and gentlemen gathered here to rise with me and join me in a toast for the pleasant stay of Mrs. Roosevelt here, hoping that it will be of great positive and enduring results in the promotion of mutual friendship and loyalty and security of our two peoples.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of the President at the luncheon given in honor of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt at Malacañan, March 28, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(3), 986-988.

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Remarks of President Quirino at the Installation Ceremony for Dr. Vidal A. Tan as U. P. President

**Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Installation Ceremony for Dr. Vidal A. Tan as U. P. President**

[Delivered at University Campus, Diliman, Quezon City, April 8, 1952]

As duly chosen President of the University of the Philippines, you are honored with the noblest trust within its gifts. This is given to you in the full faith that you will discharge it in the spirit that gave it birth and for the benefit of the nation to whose service it is pledged.

You come upon your trust at a most crucial period in the life of our people. The world itself is in the throes of a critical ideological struggle decisive in its consequence to the freedom and happiness of all men everywhere, our country included.

You have the signal opportunity unparalleled in the history of the University to bring to bear the ample reaches of your vision, courage, and scholarship in mustering and developing our people's intellectual and moral resources. We need them to build a nation founded on freedom and justice and impregnable to the assaults of any advancing tyranny whatever its disguises.

No task can be more difficult, more challenging. It requires your supreme effort and the utmost cooperation of all around you. We will support you; our people will sustain you, in full measure.

On behalf of the Board of Visitors, the Board of Regents, and of the people of the Republic of the Philippines, I now invest you with all the powers and privileges of your great office. I deliver into your hands and keeping the charter of the University and its seal as symbols of your authority. May God bless and guide your administration!

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). Remarks of President Quirino at the Installation Ceremony for Dr. Vidal A. Tan as U. P. President. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(4), 1293-1294.

Forty-second Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To his fellow countrymen

[Broadcast from Malacañan on April 8, 1952]

Fellow Countrymen:

This has been a season of Christian feeling. We have just held the necrological services for Senator Emiliano Tria Tirona. Yesterday we did the same thing in observance of the fourth anniversary of President Roxas' death. And the Holy Week which is a period given to Christian devotion touching our most tender sensibility is just over.

We can therefore say that the last ten days have been days of deep moral consciousness.

The spirit of sacrifice that informed the lives and deeds of those whose memory we have just honored has reawakened our noblest sentiments. This is the spirit that we most need in times of crisis or emergency. It is the spirit that should inspire our action every day and every hour of our lives, as a people as well as individuals.

Because we must be equipped always to meet our human destiny at any moment, we have to carry with us all the burdens, all the vision and all the wisdom, as well as our achievements and noble purposes as we move toward our goal.

It has been so with our country and our nation as we move about in the highways of the world. As a people, we have accumulated burdens through the centuries. We have been invariably carrying those burdens from generation to generation. After traveling far and hard, we find that we had come at long last upon the oases of our desert of years.

There is a feeling abroad that we who have fortunately found our way have come to know ourselves better and are now more favorably placed to shape our national destiny after our own desire.

In this our eventful epoch we are presently engaged in building concretely, strengthening the foundations, making the edifice of our new-born Republic more responsive to the exigencies of an enduring existence.

Every citizen's effort is being exerted to help accomplish this tremendous task, a task which our elders from Rizal down have initiated, and for which they gave their lives and all to realize for us and for our children.

It would be wrong to think that each generation had a separate and entirely new responsibility independent of this task. We all share the responsibility in completing this task.

There is a continuing bond between our future and the lives and ideals of our great ancestors, linking us in our present precarious struggles with our great past. This bond we cannot cut, nor should anybody dare cut, without sacrificing the great ideals upon which this nation is founded.

Whoever destroys our present destroys our past, for the present is product of the past. And if the fruit is destroyed, where else shall we get the seed to continue in the future?

It is not my intention to indulge in philosophical disquisition, but it is so obvious and patent that what has been building for centuries should not be destroyed for any earthly consideration, much less for mere "power and pelf."

We are now building this country to make it secure in many ways. Those who could not help or refuse to help for reasons entirely their own should at least leave alone those at work laying stone upon stone for the home that is being built for them and for their children, instead of burning it simply because they do not like the present architects. It is good to correct or change the latter in due time if they do not follow the pattern required by the needs of the people. But to destroy or help destroy the edifice to build a new one from pure whim, despondency, or bitter desperation is unthinkable, to say the least. After all we can not radically and justly shape at will and at a moment's bidding what has been the product of years, nay centuries, of toil.

Some older dreamers of today were once workers of yesterday. They could not be less patriotic than they are now. During their turn, they had indeed the greatest opportunity to show their real worth and should have known and done what they are preaching today. We come this way but once and, like greatness, they cannot ride on two waves to the shores of time. They can mourn their lost opportunity; but this passes on and never returns.

We are daily growing. The leaves of time never remain forever green. As one falls, of age or by mishaps, another takes its place.

And in travails of patriotic devotion as in the race for power, one seldom harks to him who says, "Wait for me, I simply slipped on my way"; for the national momentum cannot be arrested just to satisfy him.

We are presently and precisely accelerating that momentum. We have no time to lose. The dangers to our integrity and freedom are immediate and imminent. We are speedily building for our economic stability, for our external as well as internal security, and we cannot afford to have our attention distracted and dissipated while we grapple with our problems of preparedness and defense.

Rather than weaken the hand of authority, rather than undermine the strength to check the onward march of our common enemy by abetting his agents, we should give, in a spirit of self-sacrifice and even of self-effacement, everything and all that should steel the mind and soul of our people to resist the enemy of our freedom and sovereign personality.

This is the Christian spirit that we have learned during the last ten days of devotion. This is the noble and elevating spirit that should carry us on from our rededication to the principles, high ideals and noble sacrifices of those with a definite claim on our people's remembrance. To keep it, observe it, and enrich it would be to fortify our souls and our resolve to build an enduring Republic.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Forty-second Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(4), 1294-1296.

the needs of the farm tenants or laborers; hence, he continues to treat them with an air of humiliating arrogance. Fortunately these are exceptional cases. In general, although the minimum wage law is not yet enforced in that region and may not be fully enforced for some time, there is that feeling of partnership, that feeling of mutual tolerance and protection, if not of love and affection, between laborer and employer, and landowner and tenant.

In that region, we can still find people willing to work all day and all night no matter how meager their salary or wages, because they love to serve the landowner or the capitalist. On the other hand, the landowner is not content with merely wishing to promote the tenants' interests. If he learns or finds out that a member of the tenant's family is sick, he sees to it that some help—medicine, food, or money—is sent to help the suffering family. This little attention outweighs the material help that is given grudgingly by a materialistic landowner. That is why you will find there people crying for days over the tombs of their late landlords. That traditional spirit still exists in the great region where I came from. It is an exemplary tradition of Philippine relationship which should be emulated everywhere in the Philippines between tenant and landlord today.

Human relationship counts a great deal. The government has embarked on a program of ameliorating the lot of the workingman. In no period of our civil administration, either under the Spanish or the American regime, under the Commonwealth regime or during the first years of the Republic, has there been such a number of labor laws and labor measures adopted as we have promulgated in the last two or three years, all designed to promote the welfare of the laboring man. But these measures are still insufficient. We had to provide an advisory board to secure an understanding between labor and management and we had to create a social security study commission which is preparing a bill now pending in the legislature providing for industrial peace. We created the PACSA or action committee to ameliorate conditions in the outlying districts, especially in those places where dissident elements have troubled and threatened the residents. This committee provides relief and assistance in food, clothing, medicine, and shelter, including schools, roads, and even mobile units to entertain the people.

We have increased wages and fixed the least that could be paid. We recently approved the law protecting women and children employed in factories. We are trying to improve the Workmen's Compensation Act. We are adopting other measures to promote the welfare and insure the security of the laboring class. But all these pieces of legislation are merely legal sanctions calculated to regulate the relations between management and labor. We cannot legislate on loyalty and attachment and affection. We cannot legislate on mutual understanding and mutual protection that should guide the relationship between management and labor. To achieve this ideal relationship, which is the only way by which we can hope to feel secure, we must appeal to the minds, the souls, and the hearts of both groups and entities. That is the need of the hour. I consider its fulfillment as the secret of real industrial peace in our country.

We are creating opportunities. The government is creating opportunities for all those who have lost their jobs. We are multiplying the industries; we are developing our country, for the purpose. Not only did we dig out our financial resources but we appealed to our friends across the seas. Fortunately, the United States of America responded with a commitment of \$250 million to be given in loans and grants to develop our agricultural and industrial possibilities and thus create new opportunities and stabilize our national economy.

In accordance with this program of economic development, we have adopted our total economic mobilization program. We are going to create more opportunities and more work so as to increase the wealth and happiness of our country. We are going to increase production to the limit and develop the untold natural resources and potentialities that our land possesses. The government will realize in a few months some of its projects. For instance, the Maria Cristina hydroelectric plant in Lanao will be inaugurated the early part of next year and another hydroelectric project being constructed, the Ambuklao, is well on the way to completion, probably in a year or two. This is going to cost the government ₱96 million. Then there are irrigation systems everywhere, particularly in the centers or regions of production, costing us millions and millions of pesos. We have established other basic industries such as the NASSCO shipyards now under construction in Mariveles, to be inaugurated also the early part of next year; the fertilizer plant being established in Lanao, to be inaugurated perhaps before the hydroelectric project there is finished; and other industries in which the government has extended help to start them off—all these are now being realized in accordance with our program of national action to develop our country.

We will create opportunities—greater opportunities than at any other time or period in our national history. But with all these increased opportunities, with the opening of so many industries, with all the agricultural projects that we

now intend to expand and develop—if we do not establish from the very beginning the fundamental relationship between labor and management, between capital and labor, between landlord and tenant, a relationship based on human understanding and human love, we cannot expect industrial peace in this country. This is the time for us to focus our attention on the national plan to promote the general welfare through economic development. This is the time when we should change our conduct simultaneously, both as capitalists and as laborers, so that our efforts in attaining economic stability will continue unhampered.

And I repeat, as observed throughout the world, labor and capital will never be able to agree. They will always be running parallel. They will never reach the same point unless their mind, their heart, and their soul have common interest in their mutual protection and mutual benefit.

It is human understanding that can perpetuate happy relationship and insure for us industrial peace. That is what I wanted to say yesterday when my friends representing several labor organizations came to see me and presented me with a resolution of endorsement such as I received this afternoon.

I feel proud, and for the moment I feel elevated, and there is no greater consolation for me than to receive the endorsement of the laboring class from which I came, recognizing in me that sense of common feeling with them, which I wish to cultivate. That indorsement need not be for my re-election. This is a delicate matter which has been touched upon twice on this occasion. I will fight hard, as hard as I can, to discourage that talk; for I am engaged in a concerted effort to carry out the program of economic development because that will show whether I am really needed by the country or not. (Applause)

In the meantime, my friends, I know that you are sincere in your desire, and I promise to stand by you and to stand behind you in our common effort to uplift the masses, improve the lot of the common man, and elevate the position of the laborer and the farm tenant. I will always be with you. But I want you to give me every opportunity, every encouragement, and, if possible, inspiration so that in line with this common objective I can secure the one thousand and one things that we want to obtain for our common benefit and betterment.

I am very much in a hurry to carry out my program of economic development. It is necessary that we lose no time in doing so because circumstances press upon us. This country is again placed in a perilous situation. There are dangers within as well as dangers without.

When on July 4, 1946, our independence was declared and we established our Republic, we were given the freedom to erect it with the privilege of shaping its destiny in our own fashion. That placed us under the obligation to preserve our independence, to defend it, and, if necessary, to die for it. There are indications now that our national existence and our sovereignty are threatened.

The whole world today is preparing for what may not happen but which many fear may happen, and that is why we need preparedness. Western Europe organized more than a year ago the North Atlantic Pact Organization under the sponsorship of the United States of America, the greatest champion of democracy in this epoch. The object has been to coordinate and pool together the military power and resources of the nations so organized to check the threatening, onward march of communism in the Old Continent. Yet, a few days ago, I received news that a new regional commander' in charge of operations under the NATO or North Atlantic Organization had been chosen, one who has shown bravery, gallantry, patriotism, and determination to fight for democracy, General Ridgway. General Eisenhower is going back to the United States. That does not mean that the NATO has wavered in its determination to defend the countries that it represents from communist aggression.

Here, in our midst, we have already entered into three pacts. The first is the Mutual Security Pact entered into between the Philippines and the United States on August 30, 1951. The second was the Mutual Security Pact between the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. And the third is the Mutual Security Pact which was signed in San Francisco by the United States and Japan. These three pacts eloquently show to us the need of cooperation and coordination of our efforts to check communism in the Pacific basin. While the Oriental countries may defend themselves mutually in case of communist invasion or aggression, the fact is that we are now secured by a string of

pacts. This and the NATO show that all the democracies are joining together to defend themselves against communist or totalitarian aggression.

My friends, we are very near the theater of operations. In a few days, more than fifty casualties of the Philippine units sent to Korea to fight on the side of the United Nations forces, will arrive and we will honor them on that sacred spot in front of the grandstand on the Luneta. Many of our brothers are still in Korea fighting the same enemies against whom the NATO and these three pacts have been organized.

In our immediate vicinity we can almost hear the cannons of the Ho Chih-min regime against the Vietnam Republic, a democracy recognized by many of the democracies of the world. China is already a communist country. Both Japan and Formosa are threatened by communism. The southward march of communism is reaching Thailand, Malaya, Indonesia, and even farther in Southeast Asia like Burma, Ceylon, India, and Pakistan.

We are surrounded by active communist agents. These agents are already boring from within our own country. You know how many dissidents, known to be communists, are being killed in our land and how many have already been sent to jail for having risen in rebellion against the duly constituted authorities, the symbol of our independence and sovereignty. We are still fighting them and if we do not overcome them, they will constitute a serious threat to us in case of a communist invasion.

There must therefore be cohesion, coordination, consolidation, and concerted effort on our part to develop a new way of life that will permit us to enjoy what we are convinced is going to be the continued source of our happiness and dignity as a race—democracy. (*Applause*) For that purpose we must eliminate or reduce to the minimum all the possible sources of disintegration, of misunderstanding, of division, and of dispersion. It is a sad coincidence that while we are trying to defend our right to be free and independent for all time, we are also engaged in constructing this country on a firm foundation to enable us to enjoy the blessings of liberty and freedom which are now our prized possessions; that while we are tilling and planting our lands we are also being harassed and embarrassed by the enemies of freedom. This, I repeat, is a sad coincidence. We must therefore have a greater degree of patriotism, foresight, and determination to make our country stable and strong, so that we can deliver it to our children happier and stronger. (*Applause*) In this, the laboring class of the country could have greater responsibilities to share.

No country in the world today underrates the prime importance and influence of the laboring class. All over the world, government institutions lean on this element for support, for permanence, and for stability. And I am glad that I have been given this opportunity to commune with you on the great objectives of our nation and to appeal to you that we stand as one man in defense of our right to be free.

The material things involved—like an increase of wages, remedying ill-treatment by some employers who do not see eye-to-eye with us the advantages and benefits of cultivating a spirit of cooperation with the laboring class—these are things that men can well solve if we give them the opportunity, and if they have the heart and the mind to do so. I know that the laboring class in the Philippines will conduct itself in a manner that will enable the country to have real industrial peace. We have to depend upon wise and unselfish leadership, upon sober and conciliatory spirit of both labor and management, and above all, upon the heart and soul of the people, to make labor and management not only partners but counterparts in the common task of achieving a great end.

My friends, let us all feel as one man. Let us work together in an atmosphere of tolerance, in an atmosphere of understanding, and in an atmosphere of cooperation. There is no problem that we cannot solve if we have the will to solve it. We have the responsibility to do so because this country does not belong to us alone. It belongs as much if not more to our children. So, if we allow it to be destroyed today, we shall lose it tomorrow to the deprivation of our children. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of the President at the testimonial banquet given by labor leaders at the Manila Hotel on April 30, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines, 48(4)*, 1297-1304.

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino at the Luncheon for Admirals Radford, Russel and Ortoli

**Extemporaneous Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Luncheon for Admirals Radford, Russel and Ortoli**

[Delivered at the Malacañan Palace, May 2, 1952]

We have the traditional custom of registering the names of distinguished guests to our house. But today when we have with us distinguished friends not only from one country but from several countries who are responsible for the planning or the carrying out of plans on how to secure our regional defenses here, I would not be satisfied with just asking them to register their names in our registry book.

I want to register also in words the appreciation of, this government for their visit. The meeting in the Philippines of three admirals representing the United States, Great Britain, and France is of course not only historical but significant to us because of its deeper meaning as regards our immediate purposes in the defense of this region. We are very happy indeed, not only honored, that they have found time to gather in the Philippines and make this country the seat of their conferences on the broad matters of regional defenses, especially of the neighboring countries.

Their presence here, therefore, is reassuring to us. We do not have any counterpart of the North Atlantic Pact. The Mutual Defense Agreements with the United States are separately entered into by the Philippines and the United States, and by the United States, Australia, and New Zealand, and the United States and Japan.

In these agreements, we have looked up to the United States for moral leadership in the defense of the Pacific basin.

There has been no agreement among the countries in the Orient on their common defense. The presence of three distinguished admirals here, representing the leading democracies of the world today, tends to create the psychological effect upon the minds of our people that we are not being left alone and that without any pact with France, without any pact with Great Britain, and even with the existing pact alone with the United States, the three countries through their leading admirals are presumably now assuming the responsibility of defending this part of the world in case of war.

So we are happy to have with us this noon Admiral Radford, Admiral Russel, and Admiral Ortoli. My only regret is that they cannot be with us for a longer time or long enough to let us know what would be our role in the common defense. We have been waiting for that as we are eager to know where the Philippines will come in, and what will be my role. But they do not have to tell me that. We have a common enemy. We are grappling with him here and in Korea as well as elsewhere.

I am advocating preparedness in this country. I am advocating economic stability. I am advocating the mobilisation of all phases of the national life, and I am advocating solidarity and unity so that in case an emergency arises, we shall rise as one man not only in defense of our common rights, but in defense of our institutions—democratic institutions—which are the basis of the existence of our respective countries.

I am happy that these three gentlemen have come. I wish them a successful conference. I hope they will come back again, not necessarily to resume their talks, but to give us more assurances of their interest and determination to defend our shores in case of conflict. (Applause)

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of the President at the luncheon for Admirals Radford, Russel and Ortoli at Malacañan Palace, May 2, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(5), 1722-1723.

Extemporaneous remarks of the President Quirino before the Philippine American Veterans Legion

**Extemporaneous remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the Philippine American Veterans Legion**

[Delivered at Malacañan Palace, May 6, 1952]

Mr. McKelvie, Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is certainly a rare honor conferred upon me by the American elements in my own country. I have received several honors in your country, not only from the Government of the United States but also from private institutions of learning. But the citation which I have just heard and the Gold Medal which you have presented to me are not only the first to be given to a Filipino but the first I have received from the American elements here.

Ordinarily, when a man is retired or is dead and is given honor or decoration either upon retirement or after his death, he has the added advantage of being protected by the Christian feeling that he is no longer a controversial figure. Honors accorded to people who are still alive, especially in the midst of confusion and great controversial issues involving their personality, are at once an encouragement and generosity. I therefore accept this honor in the spirit of encouragement and generosity, both of which, I need.

It is not enough that we work hard and fight hard to make us complacently believe that we have already done much to deserve honors.

When honors are awarded to the men engaged not only in patriotic work and in civic efforts, the honorees realize some of the things they have lived for and fought for. But often there are certain misgivings that one has to guard against when honors are given almost with an apology. The fact is that for this honor, I do not have to apologize; for I know that what I am doing now for the country and for the people, is to establish democratic institutions and permanent cordial relations between the United States and the Philippines. I am doing this with all sincerity and determination and I care not what the final outcome will be. What I care for is that people recognize that I am taking the right direction, that I am taking the right step, and that perhaps I am expressing the right attitude towards these precious things that form the basis of your citation.

This is an occasion for me to reiterate what I have done so far. I have been active as a factor in the establishment of friendly, cordial relations between the United States and the Philippines. It is quite ambitious, perhaps presumptuous on my part, to say that even outside the confines of my own country, I have been an exponent of true cordial international relations between the United States and the Philippines. If it is possible to go farther, I say that I am trying to be vocal in praise for the benevolent policy of the United States in the Orient, establishing here a government, independent and sovereign, of the Filipino people, as an example for colonial powers to emulate. This I have said on many occasions to justify America's world policy on democracy.

It is that same world policy that we have used as a basis for our own international policy. We who have tasted democracy and have proven it to be a source of happiness and security, will never cease to fight on your side as long as democracy exists on earth.

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this signal honor you have conferred upon me, an honor which will give me greater incentive in my work which I have just started. Others have thought of this work. Many others have dreamed of it. The generations to come will fight for it and if necessary die for it. But during my time, during my life, as long as I still have the energy, the vision, and the mind and soul to sustain democracy, I pledge at this moment to give my all for it so that the democratic way of life for mankind may be maintained. (*Applause*)

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of the President Quirino before the Philippine American Veterans Legion. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(5), 1728-1729.

Oration of President Quirino at the Necrological Services for the Peftok War Dead

**Oration
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Necrological Services for the Peftok War Dead**

[Delivered at Luneta, May 7, 1952]

Fellow Countrymen:

We pause to pay homage to our very own who kept the faith of freedom in a foreign battlefield.

Twenty months ago they left our shores as part of a courageous contingent to fight our war of freedom in Korea.

They carried with them the cause that is not only our country's own, but that of all nations and all races who have a common stake in liberty.

They knew, as we all know and all the world knows, what they were to do—they were to pit their faith and their lives in a life-and-death struggle so that the rest of their fellow countrymen, so that all free men everywhere, could stay free and live in honor and dignity.

When they left, we told them: Return with your sovereign nation's flag high in your hands. Eight months later, many of them did return with that flag high in their hands. Those who are before us today made the supreme sacrifice, "returning on their shields." Their mortal remains are back, to the bosom of their motherland, to attest to the loyalty and gallantry with which they and their comrades, surviving and dead, faced the implacable enemy of their country's freedom. They all earned the commendation of their Commanding General, James A. Van Fleet, who said of them: "Many foreign armies have proven their worth in Korea, and the Filipinos are among the bravest."

By their sacrifice, they sustained afresh the heroic tradition that is our people's most precious heritage; they proclaimed anew the community of vision that will always unite and fire liberty-loving peoples to make a common stand against slavery and aggression.

This would be a futile hour, as would be the gallantry and sacrifice of these honored dead, if we failed to realize in greater measure the gravity of the crisis facing civilization and mankind today.

The prestige their courage and sacrifice brought to the name of our country would be vain, indeed, if we should waver in our determination to muster all our physical and spiritual resources in order, along with all the free world, to meet this crisis.

Definitely, we are called upon to do more and better as this crisis comes to a head. And I feel it is coming to a head. Certainly, we are challenged to cut out the frivolous causes that divide us and weaken us.

Communism is the enemy, which stops at nothing and respects nothing but what is strong. A solemn obligation is placed upon us to husband our forces and continually to advance to positions of increasing strength.

We will be strong because we have the inspiration and the discipline that alone are given, to men who love truth and are free. We will be strong because we have something to fight for—an invaluable stake in the preservation of human dignity. We will be strong because we strive for a planned, equitably distributed abundance basic to social justice and peace. And we will be strong because we have a compelling inheritance in the shining contribution of our heroic dead.

The sacrifice of our heroes in the Korea and every other war for liberty should forge our solidarity with all free and self-respecting peoples in the face of the clear and present danger. It should deepen our common devotion to the humane Christian tradition intimately linked with the reality of that liberty. It should reinforce our will to give our full share towards the conservation of such a tradition that alone justifies continued civilized existence in a free world.

To the kinsmen of this gallant group whose remains are here the symbolic object of our humble tribute, to its orphans who forthwith are left to find their way to their own fulfillment, it hardly need to be said that the personal loss which they have sustained enriches a common treasury of national pride, honor, and affection. The range of its inspiration, the value of its contribution, will know no limit as it blesses and strengthens every new and coming generation that cherishes its heritage of freedom.

Before they left our shores on their mission of freedom we told our heroic soldiers: "It is not for us, who will stay behind, to urge you to be valorous, to be chivalrous, to be strong. It is rather for you to show us how to follow you in the valor, the chivalry, the strength with which you go forth."

There, in their respective caskets, they now speak to the nation not with their lips that can no longer articulate, but with their soul that has elevated them and their beloved Philippines, enjoining us all with their example to be strong, loyal, and true to our country and people. In their name and in the name of our children, may the God of Liberty illumine our conscience, steel our hearts to national solidarity!

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Oration of President Quirino at the Necrological Services for the Peftok War Dead. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(5), 1729-1731.

Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the conference of Governors and City Mayors

**Extemporaneous remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the conference of Governors and City Mayors**

[Delivered at the Social Hall, Malacañan Palace, May 21, 1952]

My Colleagues in the Administration:

I am employing the word colleagues in the administration advisedly to make a proper definition of our responsibilities to our government. I have called a conference of the governors and city mayors, jointly with members of the Cabinet and especially the leaders and members of Congress, as well as members of the Council of State, in order to have an opportunity to commune with you on matters affecting the administration and the future of our country.

Several requests had been made by the governors, especially in the recent past, to allow them to convene in some particular province and discuss matters of common interest or regional interest to them, particularly on the topics of coconut and smuggling. The governors of coconut producing provinces, I think, have already met, I do not know where, but perhaps in Manila; and the governors and city mayors of Mindanao have also attempted to get together and discuss the problem of smuggling, which is becoming embarrassing to the southern regions of this country.

These problems concern us all. The question of smuggling affects not only the provinces and municipalities in Mindanao and Sulu but also the rest of the Philippines. So I thought we might just as well get together and discuss these problems in common, in the presence of officials who are responsible for laying down the policies of the government. I refer particularly to the leaders of Congress, who are now about to close their sessions.

I thought it necessary to bring together the responsible members of the executive department with the congressional leaders now that we are shaping a new policy and closing in on our legislative program for the ensuing year. There are also many things the governors and city mayors may want to take up with their respective senators and representatives. As a matter of fact, I have been receiving requests from some representatives to call the governors and city mayors for a conference in Manila. So I decided to give an opportunity to the representatives and senators, the governors and city mayors, to meet and discuss their problems, particularly those affecting their respective provinces and cities now that Congress is going to consider perhaps the biggest public works appropriation that it has ever approved. I also want to give a chance to the governors and city mayors to be heard by their senators and congressmen on measures of public improvements which they may wish to see included in the appropriations bill.

I think we are going to approve in this session the biggest public works appropriations bill on record. The idea is to appropriate as much as we can for public works and improvements now that we still have time to execute them before the coming elections. Your congressmen would like to show in their respective districts what they have been able to accomplish during the past legislative labor. I suspect that what they meant was to approve the public works bill embodying all requests for public works in which they are interested. I thinly I am as much interested as the congressmen and the senators are, in having these public works improvements in order to show what I, too, have done during my administration.

So, for selfish reasons, representatives, senators and the executive department, myself included, should approve the public works bill. But we should approve it not with the idea of satisfying our constituencies with their request for public improvements, but in order to return to the electorate and the taxpayers the benefits derived from the taxes they pay. It is not just that the government should keep all the money in reserve for any eventuality, when there are so many provinces and municipalities, especially those affected by typhoons in the recent past, clamoring for assistance. It is not just, I repeat, to keep all the money in the treasury when provinces and municipalities are in need of immediate help. We should return to the people the taxes they pay, in the form of benefits and other projects that

may be a source of welfare and improvement to them. And there is no better way for the outlying communities to share in these benefits than by giving them good roads, big irrigation systems, and strong bridges. Let us give the people the necessary incentive so that they may redouble their production efforts which, in the long run, will mean greater income for our government.

So we are all interested in the approval of the public works appropriations bill now that our government is in a position to accede to all the requests for permanent improvements in the provinces and municipalities. The governors and city mayors have been called therefore to enable them to present their sides on questions affecting their respective provinces and municipalities. If only for this reason this conference, I believe, shall have been fully justified. But there are more things than that which we can discuss here.

There are many matters on which we agree in principle but disagree in the execution. It is natural that in their deliberations the members of Congress should hold conflicting opinions. But the Chief Executive, the governors and the city mayors who are called upon to execute the laws and policies established by Congress, cannot afford to have different opinions and different attitudes. In our deliberations and discussions, we can have differences, but in the execution such differences should and must be brushed aside.

Whether Nacionalistas or Liberals, once a national policy is established, they are called upon to execute that policy regardless of political color. And that is why Liberals and Nacionalistas members of the legislative and executive departments, are here in an effort to define the policies of state. There are no differences of opinion on fundamental issues. For example, we all want to have a good national income. On that there is no disagreement. Where we always differ is in the manner of deriving that income. Many of us would like to have bigger income and yet refuse to impose additional taxes. Many of us would like to repair school buildings, and yet when it comes to distributing the funds available therefor, we are sometimes niggardly, even selfish, in extending help to certain communities simply because they are represented by the minority or people who are not in our good graces. We want peace and order, and yet when the dissident elements commit depredations, we do not seem to be eager to protect our communities, some of us going to the extent of defending those who rob us of our freedom. These are differences of opinion in the execution or interpretation of those things that lie nearest to our hearts.

We are all convinced that we should have a good, clean, and orderly government. But not all of us are willing to contribute our bit to the maintenance of such government. We are more likely to listen to the promptings of those who undermine our determination to observe the principles of good and honest government. So, it is necessary that we get together and assume jointly and solidarity the responsibility of administration, not only in the formulation of policies but also in the execution of those policies. It is time we began to realize that we should act only as a unit.

I shall not tire you with the narration of certain facts which should compel us to pull together and protect one another, unite in common defense, and secure for our country those measures designed to sustain an enduring existence. The papers have greatly publicized the main purpose of this conference. Every time that I talk of preparedness for any emergency, there is a suspicion that I am doing it for some ulterior motive.

My friends, I do not have to remind you of what the papers publish, what the radio says or what the dispatches contain from Washington, from London, from Paris, and from our immediate vicinity such as Peiping, Indonesia, Formosa, and Korea. The papers carry news that could certainly establish the fact that the world situation is serious.

Diplomats, including many international leaders, often say in order to calm the feelings or appease the emotion of their people and perhaps so as not to be called warmongers, "well, war is not inevitable." And yet, we see them preparing, increasing their armaments, stockpiling atomic bombs, passing the biggest appropriations in history, and sending out generals and admirals to prepare for the approaching armageddon. Diplomats say one thing in Paris to be understood in London. They will say that nothing will happen, and yet in their respective countries they are preparing and preparing. They are preparing and everybody else is preparing. We are not prophets, but we are not going to be unrealistic either in the approach of our problems affecting our nation in the impending global conflict.

I say I am not a warmonger. That I will repeat anywhere. Nevertheless it is good for us to realize the danger so that we can face it calmly and squarely. I do not want to make the country jittery and nervous. But I do want our people

to realize and analyze our position in contraposition to those other countries that may eventually involve us in a world conflagration.

My friends, you have just read what President Truman said, that the situation is serious. Other world leaders will say differently, depending perhaps upon their audience. But the grim, indisputable and inexorable fact is that America is preparing, the United Nations are preparing, and we have received a warning. They want us to be on the alert, and not to be surprised by anything that may happen. There are divergent views expressed in public, but there is a unanimity of suspicion and expectation, and sometimes fear, that what we have been fearing may happen. Certainly we do not want to be caught flatfooted. So the only thing for us to do is to rearm ourselves spiritually and morally. I do not know what we should do, or what definite measures we should adopt because even if we do prepare ourselves we do not have all the means needed to ward off any untoward act on the part of our neighbors or remote enemies.

The fact is that we are actively fighting the communists. We are killing them in Korea, we are killing them here, their representatives included.

We are in the middle of the fight and we might just as well be prepared because these people will someday retaliate, or are we going to fold our arms and let them drop their bombs on us? Three times they have already attempted to raid Taipeh, first with 50 planes, second with 7 planes, and third with 20 planes. They were repulsed and were not able to reach their target. But there is an increasing sign of an eventuality that may involve us. We are only two hours from the mainland of China; and eight hours from Manchuria, where the communists are concentrating their forces.

I want to take you into my confidence so that we may understand each other better. I am not governing this country alone. I am governing it with our associates, the Congress, the governors, the city mayors, the judiciary and the whole government complement. We should therefore all analyze the present world situation.

In Korea the North Koreans have refused to accept the proposal of the United Nations to suspend the construction of airfields while the truce negotiations are going on. They have objected to the opening of only six ports, three ports on each side, for the use of the United Nations forces and the communists. They have insisted on having 12 instead of six. Why do they want so many ports of entry? The North Koreans have demanded a total exchange of prisoners meaning that if they have only 50 prisoners and the United Nations has 1,000, the 1,000 should go back to North Korea and the 50 should return to the allies. And there are many North Korean prisoners who do not like to go back to North Korea because they are afraid they will be liquidated. The United Nations representatives proposed the appointment of a committee of five neutral nations to supervise the implementation of the truce terms if arrived at, but the North Koreans have insisted on the inclusion of Russia among the five. How can Russia be expected to be neutral? But the North Koreans argue that unless Russia is in, they will not accept the committee of five.

What do the North Koreans mean by blocking every avenue of understanding? And while they are blocking such avenue, they are making preparations, increasing their forces and equipment. President Truman now admits that their forces are well equipped and that it would be difficult for the United Nations forces to repel any major attack on the part of the North Koreans. In other words, while America has announced having trebled her preparations for rearmament in the last two years, she admits that the North Koreans have amassed such strength that they may stage a major offensive any time and therefore she warned her allies so that they may not be surprised if anything happens.

My friends, I am not telling you a story just to influence you, especially the members of Congress, to approve the emergency powers. I am not telling you a story simply because I want you to approve the mobilization bill. I am telling you this simply because I want you to be on the alert, to have that spirit of preparedness which I have been preaching for the last few months for the purpose of securing the solidarity of our nation. I am stating the facts to you because as responsible officials for the maintenance of peace and order and tranquility of mind of our people, you may be prepared to face the situation just in case. In other words, I am relaying to you what I received from abroad so that you may know what we should do.

As yet we have no program of national action to meet the situation. I started two years ago an organization designed to administer such measures as may be necessary to forestall any eventuality, something which we were unable to do

in the last world war. I refer to the Civilian Emergency Administration. I have organized a body to chart a policy, especially with regard to the safety of the civilians in case of an invasion. All these are administrative measures. They may be duplicated or carried out in detail in your respective jurisdictions.

The congressmen and governors and city mayors should have an opportunity to look over the program that I traced two years ago. They are on file with the executive secretary. I wish you would study how you could fit in this program of action so that should anything happen the program could be coordinated throughout the country.

My friends, I have been fearing that because of the coming elections, we are going to be disintegrated once again as members of a party. Our attempts at unification and consolidation may again be weakened, if we don't employ wisely the energy to organize ourselves in order to ward off any common danger. I have asked you to come therefore so that you may not only contact your congressmen and senators and the different departments but also make representations to them regarding the needs of your constituents in connection with permanent improvements and the public works bill now pending.

I want provincial and city executives to have a chance to present their needs so that we can synchronize the public improvements with the development program the government is now undertaking. We are accelerating our industrial development program and our agricultural expansion. The aid we have been receiving from the United States out of the \$250 million committed to us in the Quirino-Foster agreement, is actually being distributed. Of that amount \$47 million is already programmed. Another program is pending adoption by the two agencies of the United States and the Philippines.

Come forward with your recommendations regarding the establishment of irrigation systems, hydraulic plants, fertilizer plants, or any plant and basic industry which you would like to see established in your respective communities, so that they may be studied if they can fit in this program. I would like to have this program completed before December 30, 1953. I would like to identify myself with you, and I suppose you would like to identify yourselves with me in the completion of any project that will redound to the credit of our respective administration—national and local. So, my friends, to save time, contact now your senators or representatives and present to them what you think ought to be brought to their attention in furtherance of the improvement, welfare and security of your respective localities.

I am going to invite the congressmen to interpret in a more cooperative spirit the recommendations of the executive and I want the local executives to support me in this because I seem to be alone sometimes, preaching alone in the desert. There is a feeling among some—I might just as well confess it now—that when a piece of legislation affects the privilege or authority of the President, it is going to be utilized by me for my personal interests.

May I repeat it here and in the presence of all of you that God knows I have never been actuated by such motive. Don't you realize that I could have abused the powers in my hands if I had wanted to in the last elections? There was a feeling abroad that I would use the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus during the elections to enhance the political power of my party by arresting men, and putting them in the stockade if they did not agree with us politically. Did I abuse that power? Was there any single arrest made during the last election designed to enhance my political interest? The emergency powers, first granted to President Quezon, have been in force since 1941. How many times have I exercised those powers to enhance my political prestige or that of my party? Never. The only time I used them was when we had no appropriations in 1949, and I had to exercise them to avoid the collapse of the government as there were no funds with which to provide for the normal functioning of the government. Had I not resorted to the emergency powers then all the people would have suffered.

What is the danger of having so much medicine in the drug store if you are not going to utilize any unless somebody is sick or needs relief?

I would like to appeal to you for a noble interpretation of and attitude toward the Chief Executive in connection with the powers that are granted him in accordance with present laws. Please do not proceed with the suspicion that I would misuse those powers to enhance my political power or to advance the interest of my party. Let us all realize this, at least now that we are preparing for an emergency which may not come but which everybody expects to

come, so that in case of need we can rise as one man in defense of our sovereignty and for the protection of the rights and happiness of our people.

I thank you. (*Applause*)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the conference of Governors and City Mayors. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(5), 1739-1746.

Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino before the National Directorate of the Liberal Party

**Extemporaneous remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the National Directorate of the Liberal Party**

[Delivered on May 23, 1952]

My Friends in the Liberal Party:

Until half-past one this morning, I was trying to marshal in my mind the facts and circumstances that should be presented to you at this meeting. But after hearing the joint committee who came to notify me that Congress had adjourned without having passed such important measures as those providing for the continuance of the normal functions of government, I must confess that I spent a sleepless night. I must have gone *to* bed and gotten up three times. The last time was about 5: 30. I realize now that I have assumed a great responsibility to the nation, with the non-passage of the budget, the public works bill, and other measures that should lay the basis of further important action on our part in the implementation of the program of national action. This realization has worried me very much.

I forgot everything I was going to say today after hearing how some of my colleagues in the party have expressed themselves in reflection or in retrospection of what happened during the previous elections which stirred the minds and conscience of our people. I think we have to face the issue squarely and make a sort of self-criticism in an effort to find a way to extricate ourselves from the different problems of party discipline, party authority, and party responsibility.

The Speaker has well recited to you the sources of our force, real and potential. He has recited to you not only our superiority in number of the responsible officials in this government, but also the effectiveness of our organization and the influence and power that the party wields at present in spite of our having suffered a setback during the last elections. But we must realize that the success of the party and, in the final analysis, the influence and strength of the party do not reside merely in the power it wields, in the influence it exerts, and in the numerical superiority of its officials. Its success should be measured by the accomplishments of the party and the administration. We seem to belittle the great accomplishments our party has placed on record since we established the Republic on July 4, 1946.

We inaugurated and laid the foundation of the Republic which is now normally marching toward progress, security, and permanence. If you are going to enumerate one by one the accomplishments of the party and the administration since the inauguration of the Republic in 1946, you will be amazed, even astounded, by the great record. This is the reason why the people abroad have not hesitated to acknowledge that, unlike other countries which have been devastated by the last world conflict and despite the odds and menaces it has gone through, our country has risen as a stable government which the whole world today looks upon with respect and admiration, especially by our allies across the seas.

We have solved many of the great problems that embarrassed the administration not only since liberation but also during the time of the governors-general and the time of President Quezon or the whole period of the Commonwealth Government. We have been able to settle many of the important perplexing questions which we could not solve during the times of President Quezon, President Osmeña, and even President Roxas.

The circumstances then did not favor the consideration of those problems. But we have faced them now squarely and we have been successful. One of them was the school crisis. There is no longer any school crisis. Another is the rice crisis. There is no rice crisis. There may be rice shortage but no crisis. You can always find rice to buy if you have the money. Rice in those days, even if you had to give all your possessions in exchange for it, could not be obtained.

The backpay law. That was one of the most challenging problems that faced the government. We were able to solve that.

Our economic development. My friends, this is the envy of many nations. We have organized all forces, all agencies of the government with our limited means, to chart the program of national action which is now bearing fruit. Two years hence, in fact, beginning next June, we will start a chain of inaugurations of big irrigation systems, hydraulic plants, shipyards, fertilizer plants, cement plants, and all basic industries. We need to mobilize all our natural resources in an effort to industrialize as many of them as we can.

You realize the great stride we have made towards economic stability. These are records that the people know could not have been achieved without some guiding influence, some integrity, some genius, some vision, and some determination emanating from our group. I shall not attribute this success to any particular individual.

We began planning early and even without the means to carry our plans out. We took pains to face the facts, analyzed them and prepared a complete program to insure our economic development.

Another problem which has confronted us, although you do not seem to realize the great success we have achieved in overcoming it, is the dissident movement. Our success has merited acknowledgment from no less an authority than President Truman. We are not very proud of our achievement in this regard because the work is not yet complete. But we can very well say that the peace and order problem in the Philippines is now an accomplished fact as far as its fundamental cause is concerned. We have broken the politburo and have sentenced for varying periods of imprisonment those who were senseless enough and irresponsible enough to attempt to overthrow this government. There can be no dispute that peace and order situation has very much improved since liberation,

With these accomplishments as the basis of our bid for the people's further extension to us of the privilege of directing the affairs of the state, I am sure that if we properly acquaint our people with the great effort we have exerted and the magnitude of our work, we do not need to make many speeches. Perhaps what we need will be some lantern slides, some films, some pamphlets, and some products that we are now turning out from the basic industries that we have established throughout the country. These are the things that the people understand.

The people relish hearing high-sounding speeches in various places and public meetings, and the insults voiced over the radio once in a while because they like to hear those phases in our public life which are interesting. But the people are coming to realize the real facts. When you go from province to province, from city to city, from municipality to municipality, from barrio to barrio, you will notice the great change in the life of our people, the change of attitude towards their government. There is now a feeling of security among them. Our people are intelligent, they are not as ignorant as some may believe. They are simple because they are not, especially those in the outlying districts, so well dressed as we are. Even the Igorots, the Kiangans, and the Mangyans living in the mountains, now understand that we are doing better than before the war and they now come down to cooperate with us and feel as an integral part of the nation.

These are positive facts which should strengthen us in our bid for the further enjoyment of the people's confidence. We lost some of our power and influence during the last two elections. Why? As Congressman Cases has well said, we thought we were so powerful that we could afford the luxury of fighting among ourselves. And, as an example, in La Union, his own province, three Liberal candidates fought only one Nacionalista. All three came to us, the Speaker and myself. Each one said, "Oh, we are going to win. Never mind." What happened? The three of them were licked.

That spirit, that attitude, was rampant throughout the country in the last election. In 1949, my majority was not 250,000. It was half a million, and yet there was division in the party. Mr. Avelino and I were at loggerheads. In 1951 there were many provinces with two or three candidates fighting each other against only one Nacionalista. There were some cross-currents of ambition as Congressman Clarin has well manifested, and I like his logic (*Laughter*)

Perhaps it is good to remember all these things because this gives us an opportunity to revise our attitude, reassess our strength, and make a proper approach to the future. We should no longer live on our past. We should live on our present. To live on the past is to move backward. The past is only an indication of how far we can go, or how deep we can go down if we do not learn our lesson.

We should look ahead. There are new problems, new facts, new circumstances that you have to face. And if you are going to apply your experience only to the present situation which is already pregnant with so many peculiar and unique circumstances, you cannot go much farther.

So my friends, let us face the issue in the coming election. I am mighty glad that the Speaker has expressed unequivocally his willingness to be a good soldier, if it is necessary for the unity of the party. *(Applause)* Commenting on Congressman Clarin's appeal to me, I am willing and ready to wash your feet. *(Applause)* But when I am washing those feet, please see to it that they don't kick me. *(Laughter and long applause)*

There is really more reason for us to be happy, to be optimistic, and to be confident of the future. Let us not look at things now from the point of view of people who are defeated, who are frustrated, who are resigned to their fate. We must, in the same manner as the country has risen, redouble our enthusiasm, gather more force, focus our attention, and see if we can be more attached to one another, place our cards on the table and play the game face up. *(Applause)*

My friends, I am glad that each and every one of you has had a chance to get out of his system what he has been keeping there for a long, long time. Let us now purge ourselves of the sins, mistakes, or faults that we have committed. Let us not begrudge now our contribution to the strength of the party. We have assumed the great responsibility when we established this government. We are still in the midst of the execution of our program of action and we would like to present to our people an intelligent and complete balance sheet showing the success, achievements, and glory of this party so that those who have contributed to this—you and I who are giving our lives and strength to this party—may go down in history as having been the benefactors of our country and people. That is the ambition of every public man. Ambition, in that sense, is very sound. Personal ambition can be drowned if we know how to be a little bit self-effacing and self-sacrificing. As for me, I want to tell you right now and I repeat what I have always said, that I have nothing to vindicate, no loss to recover. My prestige has not deteriorated that I must fight for its vindication. I have reached the pinnacle in my political career. I expect nothing more, no gift of glory from my people. I have been able to render service for almost six years during the most troubled period in our national history. Personally, I am satisfied. But if I am still needed, why not sacrifice even my life? *(Long applause)* But remember, I have no worldly possession but my name. I am a poor man. Please do not rob me of that opportunity to keep and honor that well-earned name and prestige because that is the only heritage that I can bequeath to my children and to my people. However, as I said in Iloilo and I repeat it, I have no personal ambition to pursue, but if that personal sacrifice is needed at the altar of public service, it is up to you and not up to me. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino before the National Directorate of the Liberal Party. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(5), 1746-1751.

Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at a Rally honoring Prominent Novo Ecijanos

Extemporaneous remarks of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines At a Rally honoring Prominent Novo Ecijanos

[Delivered at the Provincial High School, Cabanatuan City, May 25, 1952]

Governor Diaz, and Fellow Citizens of Nueva Ecija:

During the last two or three decades, I have been coming to this province, especially to Cabanatuan, either as representative, senator, member of the cabinet, vice president, or as President. But this is a unique occasion which to me is full of meaning.

The presence in this big congregation of representatives of different groups in the political organizations of this country and the heterogeneous elements who have gathered here, coming from all walks of life, assures me that Nueva Ecija is with us in person. It is inspiring, very encouraging to me, to hear such loyal endorsement as I have just heard not only from your toastmaster and the active mayor of this city, but also from the governor of this province. Were I to fall for any undeserved encomium, my immediate conclusion would be that I am being glorified in Nueva Ecija.

I came here just to witness the chain reaction of what has been done to Nueva Ecija and what Nueva Ecija has done to me during my whole political career. This is but a logical cycle starting from the very beginning of my political career. You may not know it, but I think it is good to remember at this moment that it was Nueva Ecija that initiated me in politics. *(Applause)*

On October 16, 1916, when I was about to go to the Bureau of Science to take my oath of office as chief clerk of that bureau from the old Philippine Commission which had then ceased to exist by the provisions of the Jones Law in order to give way to the new Philippine Senate, I was asked by your elder leader, Philip Buencamino, to go to the Philippine Senate. *(Applause)* He did not say why I was being invited to the Senate. He simply told me that President Quezon, then president of the Senate, wanted to see me. I asked him what the idea was and he said, "I think he wants you to transfer to the Senate. You were a law clerk in the Philippine Commission and we need a law clerk in the Senate." I pleaded with him that I was a poor man; that the salary in the Senate was only ₱200 a month; and that the salary I was to receive as chief clerk in the Bureau of Science was ₱350 a month or a difference of ₱150 a month. He said, "Never mind. The most important thing is that President Quezon wants to meet you. I think you should come."

I went to the Office of the Senate on General Solano and Philip immediately brought me to the office of President Quezon who then had a visitor. I was introduced rather queerly but informally at the door. He simply said to President Quezon, "Here is Quirino" and left me there. And President Quezon motioned to me, pointing to a chair beside his messenger saying, "Please have a seat." I thought I was being humiliated.

After the visitor had left the office, Quezon motioned me again with his finger, "Quirino—another humiliation. I joined him at his desk. He rose from his seat, took me to the window, and leaning on the window sill, he sized me up from head to foot and then Risked to what tribe I belonged. He did not know there was such an Ilocano nation that must be respected. He asked me if I was a lawyer, if I knew Spanish, and if I knew stenography. All were satisfactorily answered except that of being a stenographer. At any rate, he said, if I was a stenographer, I could be taken as his secretary. I did not apply for any position, but Quezon pushed the button and Philip Buencamino appeared. Quezon said, "Let us try him."

I pleaded again with Philip because of the difference in salary. When he pulled me out of the office he said, "Never mind that. The main thing is Quezon seems to like you, and when he likes a person he will stick to him as long as

that person conducts himself as expected.” He took me to his office and called up Senator Palma, then Undersecretary of the Interior, and told him, “Quirino was already appointed to the Senate and will no longer take his oath as chief clerk of the Bureau of Science because Quezon wants him to be in the Senate.”

That was the beginning of my public service in the political department of the government. That put me on the road to politics. I learned practical politics in the office of President Quezon. The rest is already official history—from law-clerk to assistant secretary of the senate, to President Quezon’s secretary, to member of the House of Representatives, to senator several times, to member of the cabinet several times, to vice president and then to President.

That is the whole cycle in the development of your friend who has now come not to be honored but to help you honor Justice Secretary Oscar Castelo and all the rest (applause) of the prominent members of Novo Ecijanos in the government who are now giving me the greatest and most effective support. This occasion, therefore, is a political cycle. The power that was initiated by a man from this province and given to me—that man is now returned to Nueva Ecija in an effort to show, as they say in Spanish, “Nuevos favores, nuevos amores.” *(Applause)*

My friends, I have never been placed in a better position than now to take advantage of the knowledge and experience of the right men in the government. When I was selecting the men to direct the affairs of the certain branches of the government like those mentioned here, from Mr. David, Mr. Jacinto, Mr. Belmonte, General Arellano, Mr. Quiaoit, to Secretary Castelo, the choice in nearly all those cases was personally mine. Nobody recommended them to me. I just observed them, weighed their records, tried to see what probable effect their selection would have, and the quality of service they would render. Those, were the only bases of my selection. Of course there was a little bit of bias with regard to Mr. Baltao and Mr. Belmonte because they were my classmates, but I know them well and I knew they would discharge whatever duties devolved on them.

But if Nueva Ecija has been honored with its representation in the government, it is not because of any political influence but because I really wanted men who can be relied upon, men who are needed by the hour, and men who, I thought, would deliver the goods.

Nueva Ecija, therefore, is honored today because of the quality of the men it has contributed to the government. It has produced men who give strength to the arms of the government. I hope that those who will follow in the footsteps of these Novo Ecijanos who are now gracing the different offices of the government will be able to emulate, especially the career of Secretary Castelo.

When Secretary Castelo was invited to join the Cabinet, there was need of synchronizing the government’s efforts to maintain peace and order. Weapons we had in the field as well as generals and soldiers. But we needed something more than military strength. We needed to increase the people’s confidence in the administration of justice and for that purpose we needed not only intelligence but diligence, not only clarity but courage. All these, I knew Secretary Castelo was going to contribute if I made him secretary of justice. *(Applause)*

Two men, therefore, can be considered today as our greatest champions in connection with the maintenance of peace and order and the strengthening of the people’s confidence in the whole judiciary. I refer to Secretary Magsaysay and Secretary Castelo. *(Applause)* They constitute my right arm because they are the men really and effectively carrying out our program of stern administration of justice and strengthening the power and authority of the government in the effective maintenance of peace and order. *(Applause)* These are the primordial requisites to me before we can proceed to our economic development. It is necessary to maintain peace and order. It is necessary for the people to have confidence in their courts of justice and in their government. It is necessary to establish tranquility in every nook and corner of the Philippines before we can work out our program of economic stability upon which to base the continued enjoyment of the liberty and freedom that we now enjoy. And with these two gentlemen, I think we can say now that the people feel more secure in their homes and more confident in the administration of justice.

I do not intend to dwell on a theme which is becoming so popular that people read it in the newspapers and hear it over the radio. I refer to the activities of the government designed to promote our economic development program.

This is a very dry subject. When you discuss economic problems with the crowd today, you do not arouse or awaken any interest to solve these problems as one did during those days where people talked in high-sounding words and invoked loyalty and patriotism to achieve our independence. It was common then to speak of the sacrifices of Rizal, Mabini, Del Pilar, the soldiers in the fields, and the thousands of people sacrificed on the altar of freedom. Mere mention of such facts then used to arouse the people's enthusiasm, and the orators were looked upon as real patriots.

Nowadays, when you, speak of economic development, of plowing the field, of irrigating the land, of planting the different major products of the country, of digging mines, of exploiting waterfalls, of encouraging the fishing industry, of promoting commerce and communications and all the one thousand and one things that make the nation economically strong and stable, people just sit and think. They are not around, they are not driven to patriotic fervor. And that is what I have been preaching all the way from Northern Luzon to Mindanao.

My friends, this is the topic that has challenged the mind, the intelligence, and the vision of our people, especially of this generation. Economic development is today the watchword of the nation. It is no longer political development. As a matter of fact, we have been over-developed politically. We have abused even democracy. There is not only free speech. There is abuse of that speech. You no longer accuse a man because of his political doctrines. Anybody can now say what he wants even over the radio, using such nasty words as: *walang hiya . . . magnanakaw . . . swapang*. I hear all that. It is no longer the speech that you used to hear from those who gave us the ennobling principles of democracy. It is no longer the words we used to read or hear from our teachers and leaders of yesterday. The language has so degenerated that it is nauseating to hear it. Now we are being regarded as a people who have lost respect for free speech. Free speech is not freedom to publish or say anything you want over the radio. It does not confer the right to insult and ridicule any man publicly just because he happens to be a public official.

There is an increasing need of re-educating our people in the sense that they should possess more lofty ideals and use more respectable language. We should remember that we are building a new nation, a nation that has commanded respect in the highest councils of the world. But how can we retain that respect if we wash our dirty linen over the radio and the press, if we use in public such language that every decent society condemns as vulgar and downright offensive? Why do we not revise our attitude, revise our mentality, revise our language, and be more Christian and charitable? As a nation we are entitled not only to the respect and courtesy of the people outside but also to the respect, love, and affection of our own people because this government is our own government and nobody else can be expected to love it more and honor it more, than we ourselves. (*Applause*)

You have heard on many occasions, not only from me but from my associates in the government and people outside, of the great strides we have made. You have heard of the high-sounding description given to the government's effort—total economic mobilization. It is both high-sounding and ambitious, but it is expressive of our determination to develop our country.

The Philippines is small and divided into scattered islands. Our territory is limited. Our population is meager in comparison with the great nations of the world. We have to overcome our size and population by exerting unusual efforts by intensifying production, and by increasing our population. If we want to be strong, we ought to have more brawns and brains and strength of character. These are the needs of the hour. The total economic mobilization program provides for the development of these qualities of the nation.

The government has launched a program of industrialization. We have always been regarded as an agricultural country. We have not made serious attempts on a large scale to industrialize this country, but we have multiplied our agricultural products and exploited our natural resources. We have to industrialize production and prepare the way for that industrialization. And that is why we have been establishing basic industries from Northern Luzon to Mindanao. We are establishing hydraulic power projects and plants. We are now constructing a hydraulic plant at Ambuklao with which to supply electric power and current the mines in the Mountain Province, the cottage industries, and the major industries in the plains of Central Luzon as far south as Bataan where we are establishing a shipyard in Mariveles.

We are establishing also a cement plant in Poro Peninsula, San Fernando, La Union, to provide much needed material for the construction of buildings.

We have already established a hydroelectric plant in Laguna where we have completed the Lumot and the Caliraya projects. They are now supplementing the electric current furnished by the Meralco.

In Mindanao we are harnessing the Maria Cristina falls, supposed to be the biggest waterfall in the whole Orient. With the completion of the hydroelectric plant in Maria Cristina falls, we shall be able to produce enough electric power and current to mobilize all the industries and electrify the whole island of Mindanao, and convert that land of promise into a land of wealth and abundance. The work began early last year and will be finished by the end of this year. And the fertilizer plant we are establishing there will also be finished, perhaps before we inaugurate the hydroelectric plant. So we shall not only furnish the whole island of Mindanao with electric current but will also produce enough fertilizers to be distributed throughout the country in place of the fertilizers we import from abroad.

At the same time we are establishing a steel mill in Mindanao, which will utilize the scrap iron now being thrown away in the rivers, the bays, and elsewhere and transform it into pieces of iron that will be used for ship building and repair of ships.

Irrigation forms a part of our economic development program. We are now constructing the greatest irrigation system in Zambales, the province of Secretary Magsaysay, at an estimated cost of three million pesos. This will soon be completed. Another irrigation system is being constructed in Iloilo at a cost of seven million pesos.

But we have to rely upon the individual and collective efforts of private entities, private farmers, and private industrialists to complete our program of agricultural expansion and industrial development. We are now in the midst of the execution of this program and I would like to instill into the minds of our people that only by developing our country can we establish here a strong country which will be the seat of the liberty, freedom, happiness, and glory of our children. (*Applause*)

And while we speak of economic development, let us strengthen the morale of our people because there are dangers abroad that compel us to pull together and fight for the liberty that we now enjoy. One of the causes of our slow development has been our geographical dispersion. Let us overcome that by awakening a new spirit of unity, a new spirit of solidarity, and a firmer determination to defend our country at all costs as we are still fighting for survival, and we ought to close ranks and resolve to rise as one man in defense of our liberties in case of aggression which now threatens every corner of the world.

America, the greatest of the democracies today is preparing to manufacture all the needs of the country to repel communist aggression. America, isolated as she is, is inviting all her friends to pull together and cooperate in defense of the democratic principles. As a member of the United Nations, we are already contributing our blood in the battlefields of Korea. Like other nations, we should be preparing for any eventuality. And as we prepare, we should resolve to fight as one any attempt to wrest from us the institutions we have established here, which is the source of our happiness—democracy. As a wise philosopher said, “While we are praying, let us be working.” While we pray that we may be saved, while we pull together in a spirit of solidarity to defend our country, let us not neglect to fortify our homes, converting them into arsenals of food so that they would feel more secure. Let us not allow to lie idle the agricultural lands that we have, the mines that are now being left untouched in the bowels of our mountains.

I discovered this morning that you, too, have coal in Nueva Ecija. I never knew anything about it. I also discovered this morning that you have enough material to manufacture cement. It has been reported to me that in your desire to develop your province, you wish to transfer the capital to Laur, where you can get more space and attract people to cultivate the vacant lands. That is a wise move.

Australia, so big a territory as it is with a population of only seven or eight million, has three million square miles of land. In order to develop that country properly, the Australians had to transfer their capital several times, first to Melbourne, then to Sydney, and now to Canberra. Nueva Ecija is perhaps another Australia. I understand that your first capital was Bongabon, then Cabanatuan, and now you want it to be Laur. Go ahead if you want to. (*Applause*)

I do not know what this will mean to the national government because the land you aspire to occupy is public land. It is a part of the stock farm at Bongabon but I know you need only 1,500 hectares and the stock farm is about 4,000 hectares. If it does not hamper the program of the development of the stock farm and if you really are in a position to pay for that land, I can make a bargain with you, on condition that you contribute your share in making this country stronger, happier, more prosperous, and more dignified and that you contribute to the efforts of the national government in the development of democracy here. *(Applause)*

My friends, you must help us strengthen our political institution. We cannot strengthen our political institution if we continue to be harassed and embarrassed by elements who would like to overthrow our government.

We cannot concentrate on economic development if we have no peace and tranquility. What I would like you to do is to help the government, help its agencies, help every officer and soldier of the armed forces and the police and peace officers of the country, and, under all circumstances, cooperate so that we can eradicate once, and for all the enemies of our freedom and liberty, and thus be tranquil to cultivate the soil. Our second goal is to get results: produce and multiply. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at a Rally honoring Prominent Novo Ecijanos. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(5), 1751-1758.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PORTAL – EDITED AT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 638

Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the awarding of the Philippine Legion of honor to Honorable Paul Vories McNutt

**Extemporaneous remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the awarding of the Philippine Legion of Honor (Commander) to Honorable Paul Vories McNutt**

[Delivered at Malacañan Palace, May 27, 1952]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I invite you to join me in a toast of welcome to two of our best friends in the United States, Ambassador McNutt and Mrs. McNutt . . .

I would like to take advantage of this occasion to indulge in retrospection of the day when Ambassador and Mrs. McNutt were here to have a final glance of the Philippines as a territory of the United States. I refer to the 4th of July, 1946, when Ambassador McNutt, as official envoy of the President of the United States, declared the independence of the Philippines.

Mr. McNutt has been coming to the Philippines ever since our country became a Republic. Almost every year, he visits us. But we were not quite proud to invite him to make a comparative study of the situation then and the situation now, because in recent years, or perhaps as recent as last year, we had been going through difficulties which we were afraid we would not be able to surmount.

Mr. McNutt predicted during the inauguration of our Republic in 1946 that some serious crisis might occur in this country in the course of its development as a nation. In order to be exact, I went over the *Blue Book* this morning to find out what he correctly stated then. I culled a portion of his speech after declaring the independence of this country, and the answer that President Roxas gave.

Said Ambassador McNutt: “But we know that independence, of itself, will not solve the many complex problems perplexing the Philippines today. The American people know that in this land there must occur one of the great crises of our times. Will this people, physically wounded and crushed by war, be able to surmount their obstacles, overcome their difficulties, withstand the lures and dangers of dictatorship and demagoguery, and emerge from their trials as a citadel of freedom?”

That statement was very picturesque. As I recalled it this morning I was able to get the full implication of his fears then.

President Roxas, no less inspired, answered in words that reflected the soul of his people. Said he:

“This daughter land of America, sprung from the hardy stock of Asia, will not be awed by difficulties. It will live and endure the shocks of time. This is our faith, and this is our resolve. With the help of the Divine Providence, our steps will be illumined by the shining countenance of truth and righteousness . . . our spirits will be eased from the weariness of toil by the grace of knowledge that our people’s happiness is our goal . . .

“Our independence is our pride and our honor. We shall defend our nation with our lives and our fortunes.”

That was President Roxas' answer. . Today, I answer with facts and figures.

At that time we had only ₱58,000,000 income. Our normal expenditure was ₱228,000,000. So when we began the Republic, we were faced with a deficit of ₱170,000,000.

Our income in 1946 was only ₱58,000,000. Today it is ₱500,000,000.

Our expenditure then was ₱228,000,000. In our last budget it was ₱386,000,000.

Our population then was 18,000,000. Today it is over 20,000,000.

Our foreign trade was approximately ₱720,000,000. Now it is over ₱1,790,000,000.

Our agricultural production was about three millions. Now it is over seven millions.

Our agricultural land under cultivation was, 3,000,000 hectares. Now it is five and a half million hectares.

Our national income was a little four billion pesos. Now it is over seven billion pesos.

Our armed forces were 36,000. Now we have 57,000.

Our name and prestige was practically nothing. We began from scratch, we were overburdened with local difficulties and harassed and embarrassed by dissidents who tried to add more confusion to our country. Although our campaign against the dissidents has not been completed yet, one can now travel safely in all the highways of the country. In some isolated places where there are still dissident elements who come down once in a while from the mountain fastnesses to forage, one may run the risk of an ambush. But such instances are very rare.

I am not too proud of the accomplishments of this government. But we had hoped that the determination of this government, so well expressed by President Roxas, might produce, results. And we have produced results in the sense that we have been able to keep going the institution and the democracy that we established here, Mr. Ambassador, the democracy which you thought might succumb to the lures and dangers of dictatorship and demagoguery. We are proud to say that we remain the exponents of democracy in this part of the world.

So, looking back to the days in 1946 when there were forebodings, and considering the dark prophesies not only of our ill-wishers but also of some of our people and friends, we can see why there was certain fear at home and abroad that we might not be able to survive.

We recall those days when you encouraged us to proceed, because it was that encouragement, that assurance, that determination of the United States to support and protect the Philippines that kept us alive and strong and determined to stand as a nation. It was that encouragement that has made us feel much stronger. It is pleasant to think on this occasion, when you return six years after you declared our independence, that you can now convince yourself not only of the material progress we have attained and the moral stamina that we have evinced but also of the bright future of this country which President Roxas called "the land of America in this part of the world."

On this occasion, therefore, we want to recall our country's sincere gratitude for your great guidance, your inspiration, and—why not say it?—your promptings, that this government would endure. And to make that of permanent record, I want to ask Colonel Cardenas to read the citation to you.

"By direction of the President, pursuant to paragraph 2e, Section I, AFPR 600-45, this Headquarters, dated 16 December 1948, the Philippine Legion of Honor (Commander) is hereby awarded by the Chief of Staff, Armed Forces of the Philippines, to the following-named individual:

“HONORABLE PAUL VORIES McNUTT

“For eminently meritorious and distinguished service to the Filipino people impositions of high responsibility as American High Commissioner to the Philippines and as American Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines for the periods 1937-1939, 1945-1946, and 1946-1947, respectively. Passionately interested in the welfare of the Filipino people, Honorable Paul Vories McNutt rendered major assistance during and after the war by lending advice and support to our cause and adding his great personal prestige in the advocacy of our interests. As American High Commissioner for a second time, 1945-46, he devoted all his efforts to heal the wounds of war and to secure the necessary assistance for the veterans of the Philippine Army and the Filipino people in general. He showed his profound concern for the welfare of the Philippines and her people when he advocated the passage of the Rehabilitation Act by the U.S. Congress so that the Philippines which suffered from the ravages of the last war would receive the much needed aid in rebuilding the Philippines.

“As personal envoy of the President of the inauguration of the Philippine Republic, Ambassador of the United States to this Republic, Hon. Paul Vories McNutt has displayed uncommon interest in the welfare and development of our country. He worked ceaselessly to advance the fortunes, friendship, and prosperity of the Philippines and the country he represents. By his untiring efforts, excellent and thorough grasp of international relations, his diplomacy, his prestige and intense devotion to the cause of the Filipino people, he has strengthened the bond which has bound the U.S. and the Philippines in common ideals, mutual respect, and everlasting friendship.”

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the awarding of the Philippine Legion of honor to Honorable Paul Vories McNutt. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(5), 1758-1761.

Remarks of President Quirino at the awarding of the Philippine Legion of Honor (Commander) to Honorable Paul Vories McNutt, May 27, 1952

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of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the awarding of the Philippine Legion of Honor (Commander)
To Honorable Paul Vories McNutt**

[Delivered at Malacañan Palace on May 27, 1952]

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“As personal envoy of the President of the United States at the inauguration of the Philippine Republic, and as the first Ambassador of the United States to this Republic, Hon. Paul Vories McNutt has displayed uncommon interest in the welfare and development of our country. He worked ceaselessly to advance the fortunes, friendship, and prosperity of the Philippines and the country he represents. By his untiring efforts, excellent and thorough grasp of international relations, his diplomacy, his prestige and intense devotion to the cause of the Filipino people, he has strengthened the bond which has bound the U.S. and the Philippines in common ideals, mutual respect, and everlasting friendship.”

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino before the Government Auditors
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
Before the Government Auditors who called on the President

[Delivered at the Malacañan Ceremonial Hall, June 4, 1952]

Mr. Agregado and Friends:

I appreciate your calling on me because whether you like it or not, we have a common responsibility. I have always considered the General Auditing Office as a real, independent office. Our Constitution created it to pass upon all accounts of the government without fear or favor.

The auditors ought, therefore, to be partners of the executive. In our effort to clean the government, the public is led to believe that if any irregularity in the form of crookedness, graft, or corruption is committed, or if anybody is caught helping himself instead of helping the people, the chief executive must be blamed for the negligence. In other words, I am held responsible for every minor misconduct in office. And more often than not, these misconducts committed by public officials are traceable to money matters.

Charges of graft and corruption are rampant not only in the newspapers but also in public squares, in the chambers of our legislatures, in the streets, and occasionally even in private homes. There is more talk about graft and corruption than what really exists. It has been multiplied, magnified, exaggerated, distorted, and has so spread outside that many peoples who do not understand the situation in the Philippines now regard our government as a government of grafters and corrupt officials.

That, of course, is derogatory to our name. We have exerted every effort to show that we do not belong to that type of people. Certainly we can compare favorably with the most advanced democratic countries. The much publicized propaganda about misconduct in office has come especially from our own political adversaries who do not seem to realize that their campaign will affect the good name and prestige of the nation. They are merely looking at the immediate advantage they would derive.

This is a general ailment among our politicians which we must eradicate. This negative thinking is doing us great harm. We are always looking at the liability side, and never at the asset side. When there is no cash in a corporation, they say the corporation is broke. They do not consider the assets, the invisible items, the great advantages, the contentment and happiness that the corporation has rendered to the people, its main object being service and not profit. And that is the nature of government corporations. Many a time we consider them as profit-making ventures when in fact they are not, and if they cannot show cash or profits, we say they are useless.

In the other branches of the government we do not have any investment except the salary of the officials and the integrity and efficiency expected of them. And, if one is caught committing any irregularity, we do not look upon the quality of service rendered to the people. We focus our attention only on the irregularity committed and no matter how insignificant it is, we brand the entire branch as an office of grafters and corrupt officials.

This attitude must be eradicated and the only way to eradicate it is for you and me, you in the Auditing Office and I in the executive department, to act quickly. You must be quick to report in the same manner that I am quick to order prosecution and punishment of the culprit. In that way we do not allow the development of a feeling of suspicion and distrust in the government. Let us see you auditors catch those who help themselves instead of helping the government. We have been reading in the newspapers about investigations regarding the misconduct of some provincial treasurers or minor officials having to do with the handling of funds and property in cities and municipalities, and the chief defense these officials put up is that the auditor has passed upon the account—so why should they be blamed? So if the auditor has just pre-audited or approved an account, however crooked it may have been in the beginning even if it was discovered afterwards as irregular, they always rely on the judgment of the

auditor. That assurance of infallibility remains in the minds of the people. And yet, when you want to utilize it in court in order to prosecute some official who has relied on the infallible judgment of the auditor, the official goes to jail and the auditor goes scot free. In such cases the auditor and the official should be prosecuted. They have joint responsibility and should have joint and solidary punishment so that other officials will conduct themselves properly in accordance with law and the moral of public service.

I am glad you have come and given me this opportunity to meet you personally. I have been going from province to province, from city to city, and from municipality to municipality, but I have never had the pleasure of conversing with you intimately. I believe there should be a closer relation between your office and mine, in our joint efforts to establish here a name, the name of the administration as an administration of officials clean in conscience and clean in record. We have to battle against that thing for a long time. Those who have been casting a slur on the government of the Republic, making denunciations based only on mere suspicion should first consider the responsibility of each official connected with any irregularity before broadcasting their charges to the four winds.

For their part, auditors should be very careful in not exposing themselves as tools of those digging the dirt of the government. There are so many scavengers today who live on that dirt but making themselves appear before the public as if they were angels and models of public morality, as if they were champions of cleanliness and infallible prophets. What makes it worse is that you are feeding them with incomplete facts taken from some offices. I know these scavengers approach your office and my office for data. If you give them the data piecemeal, they swallow everything and use the information to besmirch the name of this or that person or this and that office. They will make mountains out of molehills.

Don't allow yourselves to be a party to such iniquity. Let us be more prudent. Let us be more circumspect. Let us be more careful in handling the accounts in each office of the government so as not to be used as tools by those who are just searching for muck with which to defile many of the great things the government has done. Let us picture the positive side, the asset side of our account in our balance sheet. Let us give more prominence and importance to what this government has accomplished.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). The President's extemporaneous remarks before the Government Auditors who called on the President, June 4, 1952, at the Malacañan Ceremonial Hall. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(6), 2163-2165.

Forty-Fourth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Forty-Fourth Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Broadcast from Del Monte, Bukidnon, June 15, 1952]

My Fellow Countrymen:

I have today returned to the House of Representatives without my signature the bill repealing all laws granting emergency powers to the President. This means that I have disapproved or vetoed the bill. I think you are entitled to know the reasons why I have so acted. It is primarily for your protection and security.

I fully realize that the present emergency powers sought to be repealed by the bill were granted by the National Assembly over 10 years ago, and that definite steps are being taken to end formally the state of war that necessitated the delegation of said powers to the President.

But it must also be fully realized that, as an aftermath of that war and while the peace treaty formally terminating it is still pending consideration by the Senate, world conditions have become so complicated, so troubled and grave, and to be sure, worse than when World War II broke out, that it would be the better part of wisdom not to terminate those powers until or unless new authority to act in an impending emergency is granted by the Congress, or the Congress has provided directly for such an emergency.

As you already know, in Korea as well as in our midst, war is actually being fought between two conflicting ideologies, and our own soldiers are not only fighting but are dying in defense of democracy and freedom and for the preservation of our Republic. I do not have to stress the emergency at home by recounting the unfortunate and recurring incidents in many municipalities and barrios where countless innocent civilians, young and old, women and children, hospital nurses and patients, and even babies were killed in the atrocious attacks of the Communists in their ceaseless and relentless efforts to subvert our Government and destroy our democratic way of life. Thus, we are being threatened from without as well as from within. You still hear and read in the newspapers the continuous encounters between our armed forces and the Communists in several sectors of the country.

On top of this, a realistic appraisal of the gravity of the world situation, particularly the unsettled war in Korea and the tensions elsewhere, as well as the authoritative reports to the effect that the Reds have built and are building up a massive military strength there and in other places, will readily convince all right-thinking people that there exists an imminent potential threat that the war might spread to such an extent as to make even our country a veritable battlefield. Already we are directly and deeply involved in the Korean war. It is precisely because of the immediacy and gravity of our stake in that war that I am convinced we should be adequately provided with all the means—through presidential emergency powers or by direct legislation—with which to meet any eventuality promptly and effectively with a view to protecting our people's safety and security. The tendency of war procedure in our age does not guarantee that there will always be time to act adequately in case of actual invasion or declaration of war. I would not want to be a party to a course of action, such as that contemplated in the enactment of House Bill No. 727, which would place our national security in great jeopardy and peril.

I know fully well the spirit which originally inspired the presentation of this bill, especially the reasons which prompted its dramatic approval by the House of Representatives, one of which is the unfounded and malicious fear that I might use the emergency powers for political purposes or otherwise capriciously abuse the exercise of the prerogatives provided thereunder, which are admittedly broad and almost unlimited. Two elections have taken place, in one of which I was personally involved, since I assumed office as President of the Republic, but I stand unchallenged that I ever used or abused the exercise of these powers at any time and under any circumstance for political advantage or ulterior purpose. All along I have been devotedly concentrating my efforts to secure the political and economic stability of our country by constructive measures. I have never been drunk with power. The

instances when I exercised the emergency powers conferred by the Legislature were merely to provide for the normal functions of government and to protect the permanent interests and security of the nation. The last executive order that I issued under the said powers was for the purpose of preventing the exportation of war equipment and supplies and construction materials and critical items needed by the country during the present struggle of other nations to possess them for war purposes.

In the last regular session of the Congress, I recommended the approval of a bill granting specific and limited emergency powers and the civil defense and mobilization bill. I have today reiterated that recommendation. There must be some law or regulation to follow in case of emergency. In the event of actual war and the Congress cannot be convened on time to cope with the situation, the President may be compelled to declare martial law so that he can act accordingly. It is precisely to obviate this necessity that I desire the Congress to legislate directly or by delegation providing for adequate measures for our defense and security in such an eventuality. Pending the enactment of these measures or any better legislation, I cannot in conscience acquiesce in any act, as the conversion of Bill No. 727 into law, which would render the nation helpless and insecure, when the exigencies of the present critical and serious situation demand vigilance, alertness, and dispatch in preparing our people for an imminent danger and catastrophe, for after all, the security of our people and the defense of the nation are the primary responsibility of the head of this nation.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). The President's Forty-Fourth Monthly Radio Chat broadcast from Del Monte, Bukidnon, June 15, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(6), 2167-2169.

Thirty-fourth radio chat of President Quirino, August 15, 1952

Thirty-fourth radio chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino, President of the Philippines, broadcast from Malacañan, August 15, 1952:

Fellow Countrymen:

In three weeks we are expected to bear witness to a historical occasion of the most far-reaching consequence to us and our part of the world.

We have already announced our readiness to attend the San Francisco Conference to consider the proposals for a peace treaty with Japan. This is irrespective of whether we shall sign or not the final draft of the treaty as passed around among the allied nations, under the sponsorship of the United States and Great Britain.

National public opinion has been clearly and solidly crystallized regarding the position of our Government on this proposed peace treaty. This is one question that has admitted of no differences of equivocations in the mind of our people.

It is important, nevertheless, that we reaffirm our stand in the plainest terms. We wish the world to make no mistake about our attitude.

We are not going out merely to fish for results. But we are not going out just to be heard, either. We have definite objectives in mind.

And while it will not be a matter of demanding and expecting satisfaction of our claims, simply because we desire them, or of reasserting our rights to security because we need them, we must make sure that they are positively understood.

Let us enumerate these objectives:

1. We desire a categorical acknowledgment of Japan's war guilt and her accountability for the damage wrought on our country. This is fundamental to us as an aggrieved people.
2. We want payment of our people's just claims. We are against any statement pre-judging Japan's inability to pay. We must be given an opportunity to assert our rights and Japan should get herself to making payments in accordance with her capacity within a reasonable period.
3. We want a guarantee that Japan will never again emerge as a military power to constitute a menace to the peace and security of the Philippines and Asia.
4. To forestall such a threat, the Philippines desires to have a Pacific security pact, a goal that we have set for ourselves since 1949 and which we are now determined to achieve.

Those are our main objectives. We will go to San Francisco properly prepared to discuss the possibility of their being met, the first three objectives by the proposed signatories of the treaty, and the last one in bilateral negotiation with the United States.

What are the prospects of achieving our purpose? The answer will depend upon the spirit of justice and the conscience of our friends and allies as well as upon Japan's readiness to atone for her past wrongdoing. It will depend also on the force that our united stand as a people can bring to bear in support of our delegates during the deliberations.

We have every reason to expect from the United States a goodly measure of understanding about our just claims and their reasonable satisfaction. For her to fail the universal sentiment of our people is wittingly to perform a disservice to the generous and friendly spirit underlying Philippine-American relations and to do violence to our ties as former allies in war.

We have high hopes that the proposed Peace Treaty will be interpreted in accordance with the spirit of justice of the American people and the tradition of honor of the American Government; and that the same will not be given effectivity in a manner that would bring about the betrayal of friends and allies, of justice and honor, of peace and security.

We go to San Francisco confident that the United States will not fail us at the Peace Conference just as we did not fail her in her hour of need, and that the United States will find our two peoples united at this Conference just as they were united during the war.

We rely on this community of experience to strengthen our claim to a fair hearing not merely on the provisions of the peace treaty but, most important of all, on our profound preoccupation with national security.

This preoccupation with security has set the purpose and pattern to all the thinking and planning, to all the endeavors of this administration in the restoration of domestic tranquility, in the mobilization of all our resources for economic rehabilitation and development, in raising our people's living standards, in deepening and broadening for them the realities of our free and democratic institutions.

We realize how crucial is the question of security to the success and value of all these endeavors. Whatever point or meaning they have, derives from the clarity and consistency of our efforts towards achieving adequate provision for national security.

With this objective in view, and against the chance of incurring political misunderstanding and even contumely, we reached agreements in 1946 with America on military bases and assistance. In the summer of 1949, obsessed by this same objective and at the risk of appearing preposterous and premature, I broached the idea of a Pacific pact before the Senate itself of the United States. The Baguio Conference of 1950 was a resolute follow-up to the stubborn idea of security based on, and I quote from the letters of invitation that we sent to the U. S. and the countries that participated in the Baguio Conference of 1950, "a common concern over the maintenance of international peace and security, especially in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific, which recent developments have underscored." That was in 1949. In this latter part of 1951, as the trend of world events vindicates the soundness of my original proposal, we seek the opportunity to fulfill it in a definite and positive form that should fill us with fresh energy and hope.

In our whole history as a nation we have never adopted a more definite and unanimous stand, determined to support it with all our efforts.

We are sending a delegation to this Conference composed of Secretary of Foreign Affairs Romulo, Ambassador Elizalde, Senators Francisco and Garcia, and Congressmen Macapagal and Laurel, with Professor Sinco as technical adviser.

I want our entire population to have the confidence in our delegates at the conference that they will not abdicate nor renounce our rights and security as a nation.

Every expression of doubt that they will do so simply undermines our position and demeans our character as a people.

Our delegates are absolutely bipartisan representatives. They should be spared any premature criticism reflecting on their party loyalties. They are properly instructed in accordance with the definite and clear stand made by our people and government. They are on a momentous mission of justice and security for our land, not of hate and revenge.

They are men of conscience and vision. They love their country. We can have no greater assurance that they will do the right thing for us at the conference table.

In the meantime, I invite all my countrymen to wait and, while waiting, pray for their success. Let no man or woman in this country make petty political capital of their prospects of success or failure. Let us wish them all Godspeed.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Impromptu Remarks of President Quirino on exchange of ratifications of the Mutual Defense Treaty

Impromptu Remarks of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines On exchange of ratifications of the Mutual Defense Treaty

[Released on August 27, 1952]

PACIFIC SECURITY AND PEACE

SINCE July 4, 1946, the main concern and constant pre-occupation of our people has been to secure our political stability, our economic welfare, and our external security in the order I have just mentioned.

Naturally, our first step was to insure our political stability. In thus preparing our government and our people for a life of internal security our first endeavor was to do away with the dissident elements and at the same time inspire the confidence of our people in the new government we established. It took us long, strenuous efforts to do this. But, thank God, it is pleasant to observe, not without pride, that we have been able to secure that stability in our country, at least during the past two years.

Our next concern after that was to establish our economic security. Taking advantage of my presence in the United States in 1950, I discussed our economic development with President Truman and he graciously consented to send here a body of technical experts to make a general survey and study of economic conditions and future expansion of our agricultural and industrial development. The purpose was to gather sufficient data upon which to base a program of action of the American and Filipino peoples and especially on the part of investors so that they would have a basis for assurance of the security of their investments.

The Bell Mission Report was the basis of a program of economic development jointly sponsored by the United States and the Philippines. As a result, the United States made available to us, financial assistance amounting to 250 million dollars with which to finance in cooperation with us our economic program. The preparation for this program culminated in the Quirino-Foster Agreement signed in Baguio in 1950. The immediate implementation of this agreement has inspired in the Filipino people a greater determination to carry out our economic program envisaged in that agreement. It has greatly fostered the reawakening of our people to the industrial pursuit of our country. We have thus been able in the past few months to implement our program of national action. This will bear fruit in the very immediate future.

Beginning next year there will be a chain of inaugurations of important projects, such as the fertilizer plant at Maria Cristina, the Maria Cristina Hydroelectric Plant, the National Shipyard in Mariveles, and later on the Steel Mill in Bataan as well as another one near the fertilizer plant in Lanao. The great industrial project, a basic industry which we consider necessary to our development in Luzon, the Ambuklao Project, is under construction.

Although these projects have not yet received substantial aid from the United States for their construction and eventual operation as we have utilized our own money for that purpose, the proffer of assistance on the part of the United States to give us equipment especially for the Ambuklao and other projects which we are now preparing to construct, has afforded our people a sense of economic security which I know will inspire them to exert greater efforts to carry out our program within a period of five years as envisaged in that Quirino-Foster Agreement.

Therefore, only one phase of our national program remains and that is external security. I made a special trip to the United States in August of last year, almost exactly a year ago today to witness the signing of this pact whose instruments of ratifications we have just exchanged. When I witnessed the signing of this pact I made a paradoxical statement to the effect that "that was the end and the beginning" because we simply formalized in that pact our special arrangement for the defense, protection and security of the Philippines in our previous covenants such as the Military Assistance Pact, the Military Bases Agreement and other subsidiary arrangements such as the establishment

here of the JUSMAG to help us supervise our program of preparedness in order to strengthen the Philippines so that it will be considered a worthwhile ally of the United States.

The pact we signed with the United States at that time was as I have just described “the end and the beginning.” Up to that time, or more correctly up to the time of the exchange of ratifications of this pact, all our program of cooperation for military defense and preparedness and the security of the Pacific had only been based upon agreements previous to our independence and shortly thereafter. It was not a long-range program then. The covenant whose instruments of ratifications have just been exchanged is therefore not only as described by President Truman the “formal expression of something that already exists — to the firm relationship of brotherhood that binds our countries together.”

It is, in truth and in fact, and as is well stated in the preamble of the Mutual Defense Pact, an admission that the United States and the Philippines entered into it “desiring further to strengthen their present joint efforts for collective defense for the preservation of peace and security pending the development of a more comprehensive system of regional security in the Pacific Area.” And, as is well concluded by President Truman that act, or this pact, “is a strong step toward security and peace in the Pacific.” So, at this moment, as we exchange ratifications of this treaty, we feel that our national program of action tending to stabilize our country, insure economic security and, at the same time, establish our relationship with the United States with a view to our external security, we not only have gone further by envisaging the external security of the Philippines but also have taken a step — a decided step — to make this region safe from aggression.

With these circumstances surrounding the exchange of ratifications, Mr. Ambassador, I wish to give assurances through you to the government of the United States, especially President Truman, that we are happy and gratified to come to this conclusion. That feeling of security of this country, economic as well as military and external, will boost, not only the future of this country, but the prestige and honor and dignity of the United States. And I express a great hope that you will follow through and realize our ambition to establish here a regional security for the Pacific.
(Applause)

*Source: **Quirino Foundation***

Quirino, E. (1955). *The Quirino way : collection of speeches and addresses of Elpidio Quirino* (1st ed.). [S.l. : s.n.].

Remarks of President Quirino in honor of Assistant Secretary of State and Mrs. John M. Allison

**Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the luncheon given in honor of Assistant Secretary of State and Mrs. John M. Allison**

[Delivered in Malacañan, October 1, 1952]

THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

I would like to discharge a very pleasant duty of welcoming to this festive table pleasant people. Usually, we get together here for some meaningful purpose. This occasion has more meaning to me than anything else, because on this occasion I want to emphasize that we are not only friendly to America but pro-Americans, despite what other people may say.

Mr. and Mrs. Allison are not strangers to us. They have been here several times and, another member of their family, a grand-daughter, was born here. We will readily appreciate only their friendliness but the great care and concern they have for the Philippines.

During recent years, we have been receiving people from the United States, from Europe, as well as everywhere else in our vicinity, with regularity. This year we have been receiving more Americans than at any other period of our national history. This shows America's concern for the Philippines. And what is more, when these visitors come, they visit other countries. The reason is no longer interest in the Philippines only; it is regional interest. It is in this way that I interpret Mr. Allison's visit to the Philippines because, in a larger sense, we no longer feel that we are alone as their friends and allies here. For that reason, it is necessary that we understand each other more closely and promote more effectively our common interests for common survival.

I know that Mr. Allison's visit is meaningful. I do not think he will reveal its purpose, nor shall I, because I am not authorized to do so, nor do I know exactly what he has in his mind. But I seem to have the hunch that he has come to see us and further promote closer relations between the United States and the Philippines, and follow up America's idea today of turning its eyes to the East. I invited the American people to turn their eyes to the East in 1949. I hope they will not only turn their eyes now but fix their eyes, concentrate their attention, and give us their heart. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). The Quirino-Allison Speeches, October 1, 1952, at the luncheon given in Malacañan in honor of Assistant Secretary of State and Mrs. John M. Allison. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(10), 4315-4317.

Forty-Eighth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Forty-Eighth Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Released on October 15, 1952]

Fellow Countrymen:

I am going to take up tonight a momentous issue, of our time in our development as a young democracy. 'There is considerable excitement over the militant temper which one of the three co-equal branches of our government, the Legislative—I mean the Senate—is exhibiting during these days. Such temper has assumed the form of a series of encroachments upon the Executive Department.

Last week, a Senate committee issued a subpoena to compel the appearance before it of the President of the Philippine National Bank. He was ordered to bring along with him documents and information which by law can only be furnished or revealed to the President of the Philippines or the Secretary of Finance. Simultaneously, a similar subpoena was also issued by another Senate committee to the Governor of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation compelling him to appear before said committee for the same purpose.

The other day warrants of arrest were issued by no less than the President of the Senate to compel the appearance of witnesses before the so-called Blue Ribbon Committee to testify on an anonymous complaint filed with the General Manager of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. A carbon copy of the anonymous letter, it seems, was sent to the committee.

The charges were purely administrative in nature. They affected only the official conduct of some members of the personnel of the Sweepstakes Office. They had absolutely nothing to do with specific legislative measures under consideration by the committee. The subpoena clearly stated that the committee was conducting an investigation "*of administrative charges filed against Mr. Bernardo P. Garcia, Chief of the Administrative Division; Mr. Manuel Collas, Assistant Chief of the Administrative Division; and Mr. Juan Natividad, Personnel Clerk, all of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office,*" and that said witnesses were "*to testify in the investigation of the administrative charges against the same respondents.*" Later, the subpoena recited that these administrative charges consisted of violation of the civil service rules, of immorality, of nepotism, etc.

Despite the fact that, by presidential direction, the investigation of said charges was being conducted by, the Executive Secretary—a member of the Cabinet—as the office concerned is under the direct supervision of the President, and that the committee was requested not to interfere in such investigation for the time being, the Senate President sent 15 men to the Sweepstakes Office to place the subpoenaed witnesses under Senate custody, and to take them before the Blue Ribbon Committee to testify on the same anonymous charges.

Another Senate committee, the Army and Navy committee, was reported planning to seek explanation from a judge of first instance why he investigated a criminal-complaint filed against a member of the Senate at an unholy hour. The "invitation" was going to be sent after the information was duly filed in his court and an order of arrest issued thereunder. In other words, while the case was already *sub judice*.

These facts show an evident attempt to arrogate legislative authority not only over the Executive Department, but even over the Judicial Department. This situation is not only terroristic and harassing but manifests a dangerous tendency to abuse the legislative power of investigation.

Placed above the personalities that happen to be involved at the moment by reason of their position, and under ordinary circumstances, the issue created would be a healthy development in our national experience of freedom.

For, viewing the subject from the constructive angle, we should be able to derive what lesson, what benefit, we can from the torments and difficulties that are ours today because of a seedling disintegrative struggle for supremacy at least between the legislative and the executive departments in the exercise of constitutional prerogatives.

But we should be appropriately and adequately warned of the dangers and difficulties that we unnecessarily invite and that may prove to be costly to us. Besides, the present legislative fever is blurring the mind and vision of otherwise great intellects. It thus renders them incapable of attending to the very important job at hand; namely, the economic development of our country to bring the good life to our people in increasing proportion, to generate that goodwill faith, and confidence that make for increased power and stability, and to perfect the security we need in which to fulfill our highest individual and collective potentialities.

While the Executive Department is busy cleaning the government of undesirables, continuing unabated the investigation of any anomaly, irregularity, or dereliction of duty brought to its attention, Senate legislative committees are bent on duplicating the work of investigation. Quite often they conduct simultaneously the same investigation to the great confusion not only of officials and employees of the government but also of the public.

What appeared at the beginning to be an attempt to exercise legislative powers in the guise of great concern in the preparation of prospective legislation now becomes a direct threat to cow public officials and employees to submit to investigations conducted even by the committees not authorized to function during recess. By the arrogant and terroristic procedure employed, and considering the precedent in the case of Arnault who is still languishing in jail and for an indefinite period, there is an obvious design to establish not merely legislative primacy but the sheerest despotism and tyranny.

It seems ridiculous that tyranny should now originate from a legislative chamber. As the highest representative of the Executive power, I have on some occasions been painted as wielding dictatorial powers. I confess that I have never tolerated any abuse of power in the execution of the laws and in the administration of justice. I have been stern in the application of the law equally to the rich and the poor, the high and the low, irrespective of whether the person affected is my friend or a partyman or not. The whole world knows this, and as long as I am here, at the head of this nation, I will continue with this policy no matter who is going to be hurt or affected 'by my stern decision to apply the rules of law and justice impartially. But I have yet to bow to new despots—this handful of senatorial tyrants

More often than not, these Senate investigations are nothing more than fishing or exploratory expeditions to find cause for the creation of new electoral issues against the administration. If the result of such investigations regarding the conduct of officials and employees in the Executive Department is after all to recommend administrative or judicial action against them—for they cannot go farther—it seems superfluous not to say wasteful, as the time could well be devoted to constructive legislation. This is specially so in cases where the executive or the judicial department is already conducting its investigations on the same subject matter and on the same officials under its own jurisdiction and supervision.

The practice is becoming vicious, to say the least. There is a systematic attempt, for example, to pressure if not to besmear the Army, to weaken the people's confidence in it, and to demoralize its personnel—thus affecting its fighting spirit and efficiency in its battle against all kinds of crime and dissidence. Nothing could better enhance the morale of the Communists.

Those who are unwittingly engaged in this pastime as well as those who are systematically and falsely picturing a deterioration of the government and are now conjuring a desperate situation for the people are perforce active agents of the deliberate subverters of this government.

I cannot believe that most of them are unknowingly indulging in this practice. They may be only looking towards the elections of 1953. But actually they are destroying the democracy that we have at such great pains determined to establish. Watch out for them. There must be a limit to this over-bearing and shall I say presumptuous zeal of some of our legislative officials.

The greatest demoralizing result is not merely the terrorism generated by investigating committees. There is also a great amount of sterile work required of public officials concerned in the preparation of reports, documents, analyses, innumerable sets of papers, etc., which rival committees simultaneously require from, many offices and corporations of the government. Of course there is no effort to conceal facts and figures that would guide them in their legislative labor, and I shall not close my doors to any inquiry to this effect. It is my sworn duty to open the whole government records to the people and especially to the zealous guards of the public interests, if they only make the proper requests and even demands.

Have not members of the Cabinet and subordinate officials been appearing before legislative committees to furnish the information needed in aid of legislation? But in most of the cases I have just mentioned, especially where a Senate committee for instance required the submission to it of the complete record of all past investigations during this administration, the Roxas administration, or the Osmeña administration, conducted in all the government-controlled corporations, the extra work required acquires tremendous proportions, robbing many offices of the necessary time to attend to the normal, not to say urgent, functions of government, All this requires extra personnel, extra time, extra effort, extra energy, and sometimes extra molestation. All for what? To dig up administrative records against people whom they want to go after before the next elections.

This legislative rampage deserves the serious study and discipline of our people. They are being deprived of the normal services of public servants elected to serve them. They miss the constructive attention of our legislators who squander their valuable time and opportunity for serving their constituencies in the vain pursuit of non-legislative activities, almost purely political and partisan in nature.

The use or enforcement of this new pattern of public service, if unrestrained, will destroy the fundamental principles of our constituted government on the separation of powers. It does not only lead to confusion but foments disorganization and even disorder, as Senate committee members are attempting to do in the Executive Office, ordering the arrest of more people. I have just learned this afternoon that they issued additional warrants of arrest to compel others to testify before the Blue Ribbon Committee although we have already requested, that committee to suspend action because not only the Executive Secretary but I personally have taken charge of the task of conducting an investigation affecting an office under my direct supervision. Such attempt takes on tragic dimensions when it is simply designed to meet the immediate exigencies of the next, elections. In the midst of an atmosphere that should be for concentrated national construction, the preoccupation with this type of politics does not only divert but arrest the upward trend of our general economic development. We are at the height of execution of our important projects to accelerate agricultural development and expansion as well as the establishment of our basic industries. We have a concrete and complete program of action to carry out within a prescribed period and have carefully laid out the schedule.

Because of this, the administration is determined not to be harassed or distracted in these our honest efforts by the unpatriotic attempt of those who merely desire to pull down for electoral purposes the name of the administration or what it stands for in its various accomplishments towards economic stability as well as internal and external security.

Our people are fed up with the continuous and nauseating harassment of the administration. The time has come to expose the wrecking crew with their own grandiose, vociferous, but empty gestures.

What have they contributed to the present enviable progress of the country? Words, words, more words! Plain demagoguery and humbug unsustained by positive accomplishment.

What have they done to help create opportunities for employment, to encourage the promotion of industries, to increase labor Wage, and to promote the social welfare? What have they done to help stabilize prices and lower the cost of living? What have they done to help increase production, especially foodstuffs outside of what they might want to produce for themselves, their families, or their friends, and relieve the people of hunger and starvation?

What have they done to help stabilize our currency, improve our general economy, and insure our internal peace and promote our external security?

What have they done to protect the defenseless people who were the victims of Huk depredations, of Communist subversion, of mass murders and kidnappings, of rape and the killing of children and patients in the hospitals?

What is their contribution to, add luster to the present prestige of the Republic in the eyes of our friends and allies abroad? They have consistently obstructed all the measures of the administration to this end, offering themselves instead as champions and protectors of those that seek to overthrow the government. That is their accomplishment.

This noon their official representatives in the Council of State and in the National Security Council even refused without valid justification to attend the joint meeting of these highest councils of the government where they should have participated in the discussion of important foreign and national security policies. This is the body before which they should have appeared because they are officially compelled by law to appear and participate in the discussion of high policies of state. They shied away. Now, I have learned that they are going to constitute their own council of state or their own security council to tackle the very problems that we discussed this noon.

Is this the way they are going to build or help build the nation that they swore under the Constitution to protect and defend? Don't they recognize the existence of this government and its instrumentalities? They will answer us with a sarcastic sneer, as has become their habit, and blandly attribute to their indiscriminate criticism the accomplishments of the administration. The time does not permit me to enumerate them now. Our people, thank God, are now sufficiently enlightened; they cannot easily be inveigled into swallowing their preposterous pretensions.

My fellow countrymen, the need of the country today is the creation of a more sensible and sober atmosphere where issues of great national import could be calmly, intelligently, and dispassionately discussed. We must do away with this systematic and malicious distortion of facts, this loud, negative, bitter, and often insolent talk that merely befuddles and poisons the mind of our citizenry. With their continuous vituperation, deliberate and careless spitting in the air, they do not only expose themselves but also their country. Our disgruntled and frustrated detractors are short-selling our, and their own country.

And for what? All for the elections of 1953.

Our people are certainly entitled to a more honest deal, a more decent and ennobling atmosphere, a climate that is clearer and more congenial, more edifying, free from the disintegrating influence of those who would sacrifice the people's interests and the government's prestige to secure a temporary political advantage.

Our political maturity is again being tested. Fellow citizens, my good people, we must, for I know we can, stand the test. Thank you and good night. (Applause)

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). The President's Forty-Eighth Monthly Radio Chat, October 15, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(10), 4317-4322.

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino before the Mindanao delegation

Extemporaneous Remarks of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines Before the Mindanao delegation

[Delivered at the Malacañan Palace, November 5, 1952]

Now, do not believe that when I appointed Mr. Pablo Lorenzo Public Works Secretary, I just wanted to choose an old classmate or because of friendship and my long association with him. There was a more powerful reason than that.

Way back in 1949, I announced at a convocation in the University of the Philippines a new Philippine ideology based upon what I thought ought to be the permanent program of national action of this country—our total economic mobilization program.

I wanted to select a pilot plant to implement that ideology. I had long looked at Mindanao in my early political youth as our land of promise and when I was in the House of Representatives I introduced a bill, the object of which was the development of Mindanao.

I still well remember the provisions of that bill introduced in 1919, a few weeks after I was elected member of the House of Representatives. My plan was for the colonization of Mindanao based upon a system of segregation of lands into lots of not more than four hectares each. I made it four hectares in order that people, especially the excess population in Central Luzon and in general in the island of Luzon, could select any of those lots for settlement. The government was to provide the seed or initiate cultivation of the land as well as to furnish the carabaos, farm implements, and the initial capital. The cost of these things—the construction of the houses, farm implements, the carabao, etc.—was to be converted into a capital to be paid back to the government within a period of 10 years after which the land would be given to the settler as his own. That was the regional plan of cultivation at that time.

I have followed up that idea when I became a Senator. I also filed a bill for the colonization of Mindanao with Mr. Recto as my associate. That bill became law. When I stepped out of the Senate to join the Cabinet, that law was amended. The settlement program set up in the bill was changed into the Land Settlement law which was subsequently amended to become what we now call the LASEDECO. The process continued in a progressive way; and when I first ascended Malacañan, my first concern was to have that program implemented. Thus I conceived the idea of launching the new Philippine ideology based on total economic mobilization. I thought Mindanao was perhaps the best pilot plant where we could experiment the validity and the far-reaching effect of the original idea.

It was then that I thought of somebody who could help me; I looked around for the man, one who was not only experienced in economics but really vitally interested in the future of Mindanao. At the same time I wanted a man upon whom I could rely, a man of integrity with plenty of experience in farming and industry. I thought of Pablo Lorenzo. (*Applause*) At first I appointed him as Secretary of Education. If you will remember, that appointment was turned down. I did not give up. So when I wanted to implement my program of total economic mobilization, I fell back on Secretary Lorenzo. I did this not out of simple personal admiration for him although he is entitled to it, but because I knew that the future of Mindanao could be realized only by men who have real interest in it and understand the problems connected with its future. (*Applause*) I appointed Secretary Lorenzo to the Department of Public Works and Communications. My idea was to convert Mindanao into a pilot plant not only for the proper development of its agricultural but also in its industrial possibilities by establishing initial basic industries such as the hydroelectric plant at Maria Cristina, the fertilizer plant and the steel mill which are now being established there.

We are building systems of roads criss-crossing the whole island of Mindanao to aid in the rapid distribution of lands for settlement. Two agencies of the government are working together—the LASEDECO and the EDCOR. All the other agencies of the government are cooperating, establishing in Mindanao their branches in order to coordinate,

consolidate, and round off a program of economic development of Mindanao. All these are dovetailed with the economic mobilization program.

So, you do not have to thank me for appointing Secretary Lorenzo. You should thank me for giving him the opportunity to develop Mindanao with his guidance and vision. (*Applause*) I would want you to thank me two or three years hence, when the objectives of our projects in Mindanao shall have been accomplished. (*Applause*) when you begin to realize the opportunities and benefits extended to Mindanao. (*Applause*) That will be the time to thank me. I may not be here when these labors begin to bear fruits. All I want you to do is to remember that I really pioneered in the new Philippine ideology so that the development of Mindanao would become a reality and the Philippines a self-sustaining Republic. That is the only way by which we could enjoy our liberty and freedom forever.

We have already had a sad experience in the past. Our government during those periodic struggles for the enjoyment of our liberty and freedom did not think of laying the foundations of our future. But once we were given the privilege of forging our own destiny we began to lay such foundations for our continued enjoyment of liberty and freedom. But this is what our country is really facing today—politics, the spirit of partisanship. There is a greater party, a greater aggroupment in laying the foundations for our unity in order to develop this country as Secretary Lorenzo has well said, “so long as I live, whether inside or outside the government.” (*Applause*)

I am glad you share with me in the dream of a prosperous Mindanao and I appreciate the great encouragement given me this evening. I sincerely hope that I really can count upon every soul—man, woman, and child—for the cooperation, encouragement, and inspiration that I need so that I may be able to continue. As long as I am here, it is our common duty to make Mindanao the happy mainstay of the Filipino nation. (*Applause*)

Source: Presidential Museum and Library

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of the President before the Mindanao delegation at Malacañan Palace, November 5, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(11), 4760-4762.

Forty-ninth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Fortieth Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Broadcast on November 15, 1952]

My Fellow Countrymen:

This radio chat being on the eve of my birthday, I have meant to be as light and pleasant as possible. I have hoped that no important developments would intrude unnecessarily on the spirit of warm fellowship and cheer which I would wish to share for the occasion with my family, my friends, my colleagues—with all who cares to join me and help me renew my courage and faith on this day. For life is a continuous renewal, and faith and courage are its sustaining anchorage. And I would want to strengthen my spiritual moorings in an atmosphere of absolute friendliness and good will, shunning away from even the possibility of provoking conflict of opinions with friends and foes alike.

But two serious and far-reaching events have transpired since my last radio chat. I need to take them up in order to disabuse the mind of our people on time of certain extravagant speculations that affect, not only the prestige of the government and the security of our people, but,— what is of immediate concern,—the plight and welfare of hundreds of thousands of suffering victims of the recent typhoons and floods.

I refer to the last conference held in Manila between the representatives of the Philippines and the United States to discuss the security problems of our country and of our vicinity, and the last sterile session of Congress.

The conference finally took place on October 27. After detailed and mature round-table deliberations, the two governments through their representatives were able to resolve many speculative views on the special relationships arising from their military assistance and mutual security pacts and other covenants as well as their international commitments under the United Nations, especially the role of these two countries in the all-important problem of security in the West Pacific basin.

Although there was no need of further definition of their duties and obligations under the Mutual Defense Pact signed in Washington on August 31 of last year, the meeting afforded opportunity to reaffirm and strengthen their standing mutual commitments and the extent of their implementation, and thus bolster their position in the face of the most recent developments in this troubled area. Those who discounted, for political purposes or what not, or attempted to minimize the importance of that meeting will therefore have to revise their conjectures and premature conclusions on the real nature and significance of that conference before the meeting was actually held.

The last special session of Congress, for another part, was an opportunity to gauge political attitudes against the seriousness of the problems that required its calling to provide the necessary funds for immediate, relief as well as for urgent and essential public works.

The absolute sterility of that session was one of my greatest disappointments in public life. Through the pleadings and urgent appeals of a respectable number of members of the House of Representatives, while in session or even out of session, I had thought of issuing an executive order in the exercise of my emergency powers to provide the badly needed funds for the relief of typhoon sufferers, as there was no fund allowable in the general appropriation law, let alone in the public works funds, which had long been exhausted. But on second thought, I decided it was more advisable and prudent to call a special session and give a chance to the Congress to approve the necessary legislation for that purpose.

Considering that both Houses had previously approved a public works bill and thinking that it would be only a matter of one or two days of sitting together over that bill to resolve the constitutional objections of the Executive Department, I had hoped that a period of five days would be sufficient time for the Congress to act upon that single subject of legislation. To my dismay, despite the fact that the bill I recommended was much simpler than the one previously vetoed, the two Houses could not agree on said bill, or on any public works bill for that matter. For a long time the two Houses will be discussing who was to blame but I do know, because I have the record that it was the majority of the Senate that was responsible for the failure. Even the ₱8,000,000 appropriation that I recommended for immediate relief in kind to the people in the devastated areas was unacted upon by the Senate, although the House had lost no time to approve it.

It is astonishing that after exerting so much effort, at least on my part, to show the importance of immediate enactment of these two pieces of legislation upon the insistent demands of the people affected on every representative in Congress, I am the one being castigated for the failure of Congress to act favorably on my own recommendations. What an irony of fate I am even accused of sabotaging the Congress. No less than the leader of the opposition would make the public believe that I perpetrated a sneak attack on the Congress. Where is the genius, that vaunted patriotism, that intellectual leadership, of that dominating majority of the Senate? Where are they if they could not find out why they have fallen into a trap of their own contrivance?

It is claimed that one of the tricks I employed was the submission of all the *ad interim* appointments to the Commission on Appointments to distract the Congress from the consideration of the public works and relief bills. And yet, previous to the submission of these appointments, I was being attacked on the floor of the Senate for not submitting these appointments. Frankly, I delayed submitting the list of appointments until the two Houses had passed the public works bill and sent it to the conference committee, precisely so as not to distract the members in the consideration of that public works and relief measure.

Now the Executive Department—the Chief Executive himself—is being blamed for the failure of the Legislative Department, not to say the Senate alone, to comply with its duty. It was in view of this dismal failure that I had to issue two executive orders providing the needed public works and relief funds, for I could not, in all conscience, simply fold my arms in idle contemplation of so much distress and public suffering which have been the object of sympathy of even our friends across the seas.

I have often been charged that I don't act quickly and with courage. I have long searched my conscience as to where and when in matters of serious state problems, I have failed to show it. On so many occasions I have also been accused of being a dictator for acting with unusual boldness in my decisions. This time it is dire human necessity and national expediency that dictated my action, all born of my responsibility as Chief Executive under the Constitution. Some heartless die-hard partisans would now challenge my acts, threatening to thwart or defeat executive action after legislative action had utterly failed to relieve the distressed and fulfill the responsibility of government ignoring that besides teeth the Constitution and the laws have also a soul and a heart. What kind of courage is expected of me I know not, unless it be the courage to be loud and vulgar to such an extent that even the most modest education and a fair sense of decency would not permit. There is only one example of courage which I have not as yet been able to exhibit in conscience, and that is, the courage to denounce these detractors as lacking in elemental decency, fairness, and propriety in the conduct of state affairs which they all absolutely deny me on all occasions.

After all our national vicissitudes, in the midst of our national regeneration, and at the height of our sacrifices to establish a respected and respectable country and people, this is the lesson that day by day, in the streets, over the radio, and in the most solemn sanctuary of the depository of the popular will, is being taught to the present generation. What a mighty contribution to a people so intelligent and so patriotic as we have.

But I have no feeling of distress and bitterness about it. My cup is too full to admit of such extraneous substance. Others in public life strive to thrive on it. I don't. Unlike the ambitious poet who paid:

“Mine is the shrine of the far-flung dare,
Mine are the priests who know no prayer.”

I dared and prayed, not for me, not for my interest, not for my name and prestige alone, but for the people whom I have sworn to serve, even including those who are not happy unless they can drag me down the mire.

As usual, when a man reaches another milestone in his life, he often delivers himself unto retrospection. I crave for your indulgence if I feel I have nothing to atone for, or if I do not know what personal failure in duty to my people to regret in one year of life just over for me. I would much prefer to look upon my tomorrow and not upon my yesterday. For our tomorrow indeed requires more thought, more concentration, more devotion to duty, in order to measure up to the great responsibilities ahead.

And so, on the eve of my birthday allow me, my friends, the simple request and invitation to turn over a new leaf with me tomorrow and begin another year of toil, of labor, of unity, so that under a common urge and inspiration we may accomplish greater things than what we have accomplished during the year that has just passed. This I consider and ask as your most precious birthday gift to me. Thank you and good night. (*Applause*)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). The President's forty-ninth monthly radio chat, November 15, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(11), 4765-4768.

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino at the Labor Rally

Extemporaneous Remarks of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines At the Labor Rally

[Delivered in Malacañan, November 15, 1952]

My Friends:

I want to thank you most cordially for this demonstration of sympathy and loyalty to the government. Ambassador Gullon of Spain is responsible for the anecdote that there was once a very eager and ambitious Spanish ambassador who was about to return to Madrid after a prolonged assignment abroad. He wanted to meet all his friends. So, immediately upon his return, he wired the foreign office and asked the minister of the foreign affairs, a close friend of his, to prepare a spontaneous reception for him.

This afternoon, with all the apparent organization exhibited by the great organizer, Secretary Figueras, people might suspect that imitating this Spanish ambassador, I gave him a note couched in the following words: "Prepare a spontaneous demonstration of the people's sympathy for me."

My friends, whether prepared or not, the fact that you are all here has given me immense satisfaction. You brought friendship, good cheer, or consolation to me at a time when I need it most, not only because of a personal bereavement but because of the sad things that are happening in our country.

Tomorrow, I will be 62 years of age. Today, I complete exactly four years and seven months in office as President. Exactly 46 years ago today I entered public service. As I pause before you to reminisce and survey the ground I have covered during all these years, I feel like an untiring traveler or a hard working toiler who longs for the moment, when he could come upon the ashes of his disordered years and breathe anew that restoring freshness of a cool atmosphere which permits him to relax on the occasion of his birthday.

You came this evening to provide me with that atmosphere. I relished all those endearing numbers of your program. They have touched my heart. There is nothing more gratifying to a public man, especially to one who has gone through great vicissitudes and troubled administration, than to be able to stop for a moment and contemplate the manifestation of a public recognition of what he has been able to accomplish during his public career. It would be presumptuous on my part to accept as the exclusive fruits of my personal labors all those accomplishments which have been included as achievements of this administration.

My associates in the national, provincial, city, and municipal governments as well as in the villages throughout the Philippines would certainly feel offended if I accepted as mine alone all those kind praises that you have showered upon me in recognition of my modest participation in the success of this administration. I don't even know many of the things that have been undertaken during my incumbency as head of this nation. But there is a feeling, a conviction, that we have accomplished something great and, let us be true to ourselves, substantial during the past few years of this administration for the benefit of all our people.

We have struggled hard; we have faced many grave problems; we have grappled with many things that trouble the mind and obstruct activities of this republic in carrying out state affairs. Thank God we have been able to surmount our major difficulties. We have accomplished all that we wanted to accomplish. We have been able to move forward surely, steadily, and progressively. The effect of the things we have done in the last two or three years may not yet be felt because the affairs of state are developments of a continuing process, like the tilling of a land. Sometimes the crop fails because of bad weather or because an unforeseen flood washes it away. Sometimes an army of locusts invades the farm. But as long as the farmer continues working, he will succeed in raising a good crop. It is the final results, the fruits of our labors, that count. As long as we exert earnest efforts to move forward to maintain a

government, provided with all the means with which the people can develop their individual and collective activities, providing them with tranquility, so that they can concentrate their efforts, as long as every citizen is determined to do what is incumbent upon him as a private citizen and that is the duty of every inhabitant of This country, good results are bound to follow.

During the last two or three years, we cannot say with mathematical precision how far we have advanced. Neither can we say accurately how much income we have accumulated, nor measure the happiness, contentment we have been able to provide our people in a comparatively short time of peaceful administration. If we go, however, from barrio to barrio, from municipality to municipality, we shall see and feel the change—the new atmosphere, the new morale, and the new attitude of our people toward the present state of the country in comparison to that of three years ago, especially from the day of liberation in 1945.

If we measure the progress of the nation by this yardstick, we can justly say that our Republic has accomplished those things expected of it and that we have successfully pushed through the program of administration calculated to promote the general welfare and to maintain peace and order. With such accomplishment, we have sufficient ground to feel grateful. We can thank the Lord for having enabled us, men and women of this generation, to meet the challenge of the epoch.

Perhaps some people feel that we have not done enough and that there is a great deal more to do. In a way, that is true because our program of development is not for one month or for one year. It cannot be realized by one administration or two or three administrations alone. The effect of our development will be reckoned in terms of generations. It is enough that we of this generation can say that we have kept afloat the ship of state, that we have successfully warded off dangers that were threatening to destroy our national organization, and that we have steadily and consistently moved forward to our goal.

Success in the administration does not depend on some of these daily national activities alone. It is endurance, firmness, stability of the state that should be reckoned with, and as far as that is concerned, I am proud to say that the Philippines—and this we Filipinos must recognize as our friends and admirers across the seas have recognized—counts with a stable government and a strong people determined to last until the end of time. (*Applause*)

I am glad and happy to be here with you. With your presence this evening, you have given me fresh encouragement. Beginning tomorrow, I will with greater strength and determination continue along the road which we have taken with firmness and vigor until we shall have vanquished all that obstruct our way to a happier and brighter Philippines. (*Applause*) I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for this demonstration of sympathy. I will treasure everything that you have given me as evidence of that sympathy. Even the little carabao that has been brought here, I will see to it that it will grow beside me to help me prepare something for myself, something which I neglected in the past. I want to thank you, especially the youth of the land whose beautiful message touched me deeply I will strive always to be young, and even if the cares of life are overtaking me and the affairs of state are pressing heavily on my shoulders, yet I pledge that the youth of the land to which I belong will be strengthened and invigorated during my administration. (*Applause*)

And to the farmers, to the laborers, to my fellow teachers and fellow veterans, even to my fellow squatters,—somebody called me squatter in Malacañan—(*Applause*) I want to assure you all that as long as I live, you shall have in me a common champion to our common cause. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of the President at the labor rally at Malacañan, November 15, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(11), 4762-4765.

Fiftieth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Fiftieth Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Released on December 15, 1952]

My Fellow Countrymen:

As we initiate the yuletide season, we think of people whom the Lord exalted—the poor. This is the crux of the new Filipino ideology which we launched three years ago and which calls for concentration of national attention for the improvement of the lot of the common man.

For centuries we had drifted in the social stream propelled by individual or collective power, by a few who were more fortunate, casually ameliorating the living conditions of the less fortunate as best we could.

As a Christian nation we were naturally imbued with charity. This feeling is still manifest in every home, rich and poor alike, and in the organization of many charitable institutions which are increasing every day.

But charity in that traditional sense is not what our people need for their permanent well-being. It is charity of the spirit and the mind that is fulfilled only when it is expressed in an enlightened and organized program of action that enables people to help themselves. Heretofore there had been no organized national effort to implement such a noble sentiment. President Quezon initiated its official expression when he launched his ideal of social justice. This found echo in the spirit of the Constitution. But even then it did not begin to find concrete expression until we attempted to face the hard facts of practical, purposeful living. This was prompted by the necessity immediately after the last World War to re-orientate our national life not merely for survival but for adjustment to the demands of a new national status and a new world requiring permanence and stability in our basic institutions. And what was our logical initial step but to rebuild and strengthen the base of our social structure?

Thus, the common man claimed our first attention. It has become our constant obsession since to lift him from his centuries-old status of the neglected, forgotten, or downtrodden. We have determined to improve his condition, provide him a higher standard of living, and surround him with an environment of social and economic security. We have determined to graduate from lip service into organized action.

By direct legislation and administrative action we have increased the wages of the working class, the farm hands, and the industrial workers; we have increased the salaries, of the enlisted men; we have classified and improved the salaries of teachers and the nurses; in general, the low-salaried employees of the Government have been raised to a more dignified level. We have fixed a minimum wage for all. And all the officials and employees in the higher brackets followed suit, commensurately with their classifications,—fiscals, justices of the peace, district health officers, and the rest of all groups of officials which had been the subject of improvement in their salaries by legislation. Before the war, laborers were paid in many parts of the country as low as 50 centavos daily wage. Even the women in my region in Ilocos Sur had to work on the basis of ₱. 50 daily wage. The enlisted men were paid as low as 15 pesos a month. And up to two or three years ago, there were teachers who were receiving 30 pesos a month. The average salary of the rank and file of employees was 40 pesos a month. Today, none of these, from the laborer and messenger to the lowest clerk in the Government, at least in the national service, receives less than 120 pesos a month.

We have built homes for the laborers and the modest-salaried employees, reaching 5,000 housing units this year in Quezon City alone. I invite you to visit these two housing districts, the Roxas and the Quirino districts, to confirm my claim. In a cooperative spirit with the government program we encourage private enterprises, known as the Philippine-American Insurance Company, to build similar houses for low and middle income groups in Iloilo, Baguio, and Quezon City, extending as far as Tacloban and probably Legaspi. Already completed and occupied are

46 and 48 housing units in Iloilo and Baguio, respectively, and under construction are 600 sets of units in Quezon City, whose cornerstone I had the privilege of laying last November 16. We have provided besides, lots for the settlement of squatters in sum areas, transperring them from crowded and unhygienic areas in Manila to Bago Bantay, a special district in Quezon City, which has been prepared for their accomodation. We are presently constructing new homes even for the squatters cleared from the slums. Not only the low-salaried employees and laborers, even those who have come from slums are being provided with homes. The program is being extended to Baguio City.

We have also provided, by legislation, protection for woman and child labor, insuring more health conveniences in their working conditions in the factories.

We are likewise speeding up the settlement of our centuries-idle public agricultural lands so that our landless population can acquire lots that they can call their own. To facilitate payment of this land and expedite production, we are adopting a new policy of allowing the occupants to pay for their respective portions in kind, like rice, corn, or other agricultural products, especially those that are of prime necessity to this country which can well be distributed by the NARIC, the PRISCO, and other agencies of the government, to the needy population.

The Government has had to change radically its land policy for this purpose. In view of lack of funds to purchase big landed estates for resale to bonafide tenants, the new policy is to open new lands, public lands, for them. They have the added advantage in this way that they will be occupying virgin fertile lands in a new atmosphere away from the old scene and source of their old anxieties and sufferings, away from the depressing conditions in which they found themselves virtual serfs in a long-standing feudalistic system. The new policy will be inspired by new spirit of adventure, perhaps new vision, new enthusiasm, new determination to make arise in this community more patriotic citizens.

The acceleration of the occupation and cultivation of public agricultural lands now being opened to those who earnestly want to acquire lands of their own will eventually increase production. With the establishment of new communities in outlying districts, our population is thus being distributed more widely and systematically. The LASEDECO, which is in charge of the program of settlement, has been revitalized and given new incentive to carry out our program in this direction. The Government is not sparing any effort or resources to implement this program with speed. Personally, it is my daily and constant obsession.

Curiously enough, it is the Government that now has to invite the elements that before have been crying out loud to the skies to have lands of their own. Instead of the masses now crying for land, it is the Government that is urging and encouraging these people to take advantage of the new opportunity. The new watchword is "land for the landless." In every corner of the archipelago where vacant public agricultural lands are being reserved for settlement, this is the militant objective daily finding fulfillment.

There is, therefore, need of organized effort to rouse our people to the utmost use of this new opportunity. There is need of new enthusiasm and new determination on the part of the prospective beneficiaries themselves in order to fulfill this program, especially in the thickly populated regions where congestion and keen competition in the struggle for livelihood are the basic problems.

This new opportunity requires the widest understanding and appreciation. There is obvious need of a new and aggressive leadership in this direction. Here is the prime challenge to the vision and constructive effort of our youth. Sometime ago, the members of an adventurous youth group organized themselves to embark upon a pioneering mission of this nature; they applied for the occupation of portions of public lands in Mindanao in the earnest pursuit of that mission. Unfortunately, several factors thwarted their efforts and many of them lost enthusiasm. In part this was due to the old policy of restricting the occupation of big portions of the public domain and concentrating them in a few hands or groups of individuals believing that mass production would thereby be enhanced. This was aggravated by the spirit of speculation which prompted some corporations to own vast public lands even before they were ready to develop them.

But the Government has observed that the individual settlers, given definite and fair-sized portions of land, for their occupation and cultivation, have been more instrumental in the prosecution of permanent settlement of new communities in the new territories opened to them. These are the elements, indeed, that stay and work and develop permanent and progressive communities; they are determined to protect and defend the portions that they have acquired from the Government. These are the people whom the new land policy of the Government is encouraging in order to hasten our economic development and strengthen our people's loyalty to their patrimony.

Of course, with this policy, preference is given to the settlement of subdivided lots, reducing the portion for extensive development by corporations to not more than 500 hectares each. This means that more individuals will be required and accommodated in the settlement of public lands, thus increasing the number of property owners throughout the country.

The slogan, "Land for the landless", therefore, has a new and deeper meaning today. I invite the independent, sturdy, and determined individuals to respond to this inspired policy. I want to address this invitation especially to our youth trained and indoctrinated to the new concept of a substantial, freedom-loving citizenry that we expect to produce in, and from, this new generation. "Homes for the homeless" among the less fortunate in the populous districts, and "land for the landless" in the new open regions of our country should be in the heart of our new resolve in ushering the new year.

The Nativity originally brought glad tidings to the oppressed, the bondman, the poor. Today, it is in us, God helping, to effect and expand our liberation from the oppression of the spirit, the sufferings of the body, and the deadening hand of poverty by waking up to our new opportunities, by cultivating the good will and the faith and the capacity for work and sacrifice which the Star of Bethlehem brought and should always mean to the world. The motive power of this Republic is derived from the age-long source and inspiration. It has no other secret. Upon the rock of our Christian faith we are building this nation. The happiness of our basic population we aspire for national elevation.

Let me wish you all, beloved countrymen, a very happy Christmas season.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). The President's Fiftieth Monthly Radio Chat, December 15, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(12), 5217-5220.

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino at the Conference of AFP Area Commanders, Sector Commanders, Provincial Commanders, and BCT Commanders

**Extemporaneous Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the Conference of AFP Area Commanders, Sector Commanders, Provincial Commanders, and BCT
Commanders**

[Delivered at the PN Headquarters, Dewey Boulevard, December 20, 1952]

My Colleagues in the Army:

I preferred to receive you here and talk to you in this informal way so that I can consider myself as within the family and, in that sense, come closer to you in the intimate discussion of how to continue our common work and task. With your permission, I would like to continue sitting down and I want you to feel at ease at the same time.

The maintenance of peace and order which is our highest objective, is not only a continuous but a continuing process. For the last three or four years, I well remember from the very beginning of my assumption to office in the early part of 1948, the most threatening problem to our national existence has always been that of maintaining peace and order and avoiding the disintegration of our country in our effort to survive..

At that time, Taruc and his associates in the field were bold enough even to send open letters to President Roxas, challenging him to go pick them up wherever they found themselves—not in the mountain fastnesses and ravines but even on the plains and swamps of Pampanga. We hesitated then, perhaps owing to the fact that we were not properly or effectively organized to meet the situation. In my effort to change the atmosphere and take advantage of the opportunity offered to us by the dissidents who sent their letters offering to surrender if they were granted amnesty, I eventually proclaimed amnesty with, the concurrence of Congress. And you all remember the history of that first attempt on our part to settle our peace problem in a peaceful way. We failed. And you know better than I do why we failed. Unfortunate circumstances and compelling factors thwarted our mutual efforts to come to terms in the maintenance of peace as we expected to be the result of our negotiations then.

We saw the necessity of reorganizing the armed forces in order to effectively go after those who have turned back again to the government, ignoring their commitments and emboldened by the fact that we were at that time not fully organized. We exerted unusual efforts to strengthen the army; we reorganized our forces, rearmed ourselves with more courage and determination, and, when finally we were able to present a strong, solid front against them, then we began counting our victories. These were manifested during the last two or three years.

I want to tell you in all frankness and with a feeling of gratitude and satisfaction, perhaps mixed with happiness, that our successes in the last two or three years have not only brought us relative peace and tranquility but broadened the atmosphere of security in many parts of the country, especially while we have been active in the prosecution of our program of construction and development. Thus, we have been able to continue with our work of stabilizing our economy and providing our people with the means of livelihood so that they may not be distracted by the continued proddings of the communists and their associates, in order to dissuade us from the democratic practices of our privileges as a free nation.

Because of this change of atmosphere during the last two or three years, we have been credited with the successful work of pacification in our country. At the same time we have been able to enjoy a reputation which the whole world now recognizes. We have been able to check fully communism within our limited means and within so short a period that we are now regarded in the Orient as an exemplary government that has been able to check communism in our own territory. This has so enhanced our name, given us a reputation, that we have been the envy of our neighbors in handling this all-important question of maintaining peace and order and checking communism in our own territory.

You are credited, each and every one of you, from the Secretary of National Defense down to the last man of the armed forces, with such cooperative and efficient spirit that we can now safely say, as we have already been repeating it many times in recent months, that we have been able to break the organization of the dissidents and communist polit-buro in the Philippines and that we are now at the stage of mopping up operation.

This so nattered many of our officers and perhaps a great bulk of the armed forces, that we began to feel we are now very secure in our position, in our organization, and in our name and prestige as a strong government. Some of us have even felt free to pay attention to other activities of the government outside of those pertaining to the armed forces. Even some of you cannot conceal what you have been expressing inside and outside the armed forces. Some of you are being known to be preparing as candidates of a district in Cagayan, of a district in the Bicol provinces, and teaming with political parties; and some are even launching the Secretary of National Defense for President of the Philippines.

Now, gentlemen, it is pleasant to observe that we can well afford to think this way because we believe we are sure of our own position. But I want to repeat what I said in the beginning—that the maintenance of peace is a continuous and continuing process. Political dissidence may be controlled; social dissidence or even agricultural dissidence, or any type of social and economic dissidence may come later. All these ramifications of problems fundamentally affect the body politic in such a manner that we have to be wide awake and always ready to check any movement that may alter the state of peace of the country. We cannot complacently sit in our respective positions—you in your respective areas, in your respective provincial commands, or BCT units. You cannot fold your arms pimplly because you have been able to kill the Huk leader in your community or in your jurisdiction, expecting nothing will turn out again. You can never be sure.

As long as the country is in such a state of commotion— political, economic, and otherwise—we cannot feel secure in our respective positions with the assurance that we can cope with the situation at any time because we have a good organization. Everybody has got to be alert. And it is for this purpose, it is for this reason, that we cannot afford to distract our attention from our specific duties as members of the armed forces in the maintenance of peace and order.

Politics is not tabooed in your ranks. Your aspirations change your status from the present one to a bigger, higher, and better one, which cannot be thwarted. That is the natural aspiration of everybody. As long as there are human activities which can be invaded with greater emphasis for promotion, for development, for a better future, nobody can be thwarted, nobody can be discouraged from aspiring to improve his lot.

But those things cannot be done simultaneously. You cannot be active in the armed forces and be at the same time active in politics. Concentrate your attention to one and afterwards to the other. In the Philippines anybody can be President. You are free to aspire; we are all free to achieve our higher common objective. But let us not forget one thing. As long as you are in the army, as long as responsibility for the maintenance of peace and order is still the dominating factor in the mind of our people, you cannot renounce your responsibility, you cannot shirk your responsibility, because you are called upon as members of the armed forces to maintain peace and order, and because the whole people and the whole government will exact from you unqualified attention.

When you are through with your military duties, then you can devote your attention to agriculture, commerce, politics, or anything. You are free to do so, when you are through with your army duties. But you cannot simultaneously be a candidate while in the army, or be in the army while a candidate. You cannot be simultaneously in both. I want to make this plain to you.

I am not discouraging anybody from entertaining visions or aspirations outside of the armed forces. But let us concentrate our attention to our duties first. If it is true, as stated by General Duque just now, that you can complete your job of maintaining peace and order, you can very well say that at the end of June in 1953 our main objective of maintaining peace and order is practically solved. Perhaps there will be a reorganization of the armed forces. We may have to dissolve all the BCT units and spread the armed forces, revitalizing the constabulary. Or we may even perhaps reduce the standing army, or transfer to the constabulary a greater number for the purpose of policing the country more effectively.

But all these can be considered only after we have been able to solve the main problem of successfully checking communist aggression. We are regarded as one of the most important factors in checking communism in our part of the world, by our greatest allies who look upon us as responsible men who know our duties and understand the discharge of these duties in accordance with the vision of our associates outside who are coordinating with us the campaign against communism. As soon as we are through with this work, then we can perhaps give to everybody the opportunity to follow his own inclinations or other aspirations in life and let them realize their other ambitions, not only for the benefit of the country but also for their respective families and kin.

For the time being, I would like and I do invite you to concentrate your attention to our work so that we can also accelerate all our allied duties in the development of this country. This being the last year of my administration, I am of course interested in securing as soon as possible an atmosphere of tranquility so that I can concentrate my attention to many of our constructive, vital activities, and at the end of this administration we can well present to the people a record of accomplishments that we have been able to achieve during the last four years of my term.

I invite you, therefore, as my associates in the armed forces, to give undivided attention, undivided loyalty to your work. It is not personal loyalty that I ask of you. It is your loyalty to the armed forces, your loyalty to the people that I ask so that we may be able to inspire or continue inspiring the confidence of our people in you, the armed forces, who have gained new confidence of our people. Let us not dissipate that reputation, distracting ourselves with other activities which are not conducive to the continued confidence of our people.

I repeat, it is not personal loyalty I ask of you. I do appreciate your pledge of loyalty given to me but it is not the personal loyalty given that I expect of you and demand of you. It is loyalty to the armed forces. If you are going to dissipate the reputation gained by your body, you are going to diminish the honor given to you by our people.

The reported existence of cliques among you—and I shall not conceal the open secret from you—I would rather talk the matter over with you face to face than speculate on it. It has been reported there are two cliques in the army—one loyal to Secretary Magsaysay and another loyal to General Duque. That should not continue. That must be eradicated at once. General Duque and Secretary Magsaysay, or Secretary Magsaysay and General Duque, and myself, must be considered as one. Neither one is loyal to the other, neither one indispensable to the other, but all cooperating and coordinating their activities and assuming the solemn responsibility of maintaining peace and order through the armed forces which you are manning.

Gentlemen, I would not like to expand on this, but I do say it is so discouraging and discordant, disintegrating in effect, that I would like to discourage any conversation that foments this apparent division among your ranks. Not more than two months ago, I overheard a conversation among you making references to the organization of a third party. Why do you have to talk of a third party in the army among officers? What does that mean? Are you going to convert the army into a political party? Certainly, you are not going to do that. Are you going to destroy the army? Are you going to destroy its efficiency and are you going to distract the government?

If you want to play politics, if you want to organize a party, step out of the army first and then organize as you want the party that you wish. As long as you are in the army, you are not supposed to speak of a third party. You cannot be an army man and at the same time a politician.

And I would like to recommend that you take this into consideration seriously because it is not only your personal or official status in the army that has to be affected, but especially your efficiency. It is that confidence of the people in the army that is going to be destroyed, and you are not going to destroy or hurt either the name and reputation of the army today.

I am glad that all the commanders—provincial commanders, area commanders—and all those directly in charge of the campaign throughout the country today, are with us this morning because I want them to learn directly from me, and I am talking to you now as commander-in-chief, to assume the responsibility in your respective jurisdictions, as to who is going to take advantage of your work of accomplishing the maintenance of peace and order in your jurisdictions.

I have not asked anyone, even General Duque or the Secretary of National Defense or anybody in the army to do anything for the purpose of promoting any interest outside of our interest in maintaining peace and order and effectively checking communism or dissidence in this country. I have not even asked for specific assignment for anybody from the provincial commanders, or area commanders, or others. I have invariably accepted the recommendations of General Duque through Secretary Magsaysay regarding the organization of the army or the movement of personnel, unqualifiedly. I don't remember having turned down any recommendation submitted by these two to me, and this is because I have confidence in the wisdom, propriety, and effectiveness of the measures taken to strengthen the army and lift its morale.

I would like others to enjoy that confidence from me because I assure you as long as you are discharging your duties in the manner in which you have been discharging them to date, you can have no quarrel with me, and I am giving you encouragement in the discharge of your duties. All I want you to guard against is being utilized as tool by any group either politically, in commerce, in agriculture, or in any other activities, to further the interests of any group or party. Let us keep intact, respected, loved if possible, the name and reputation of the army. Keep it safe from criticism, especially free from the suspicion that the army is going to be utilized to enhance the political prestige or political ambition of some party or people.

I repeat, therefore, you have discharged your duties in the past effectively, efficiently, and have been able to gain the confidence of our people. During the last election, you were able to maintain a real, democratic expression of the will of the people, and I have been proud to observe that democracy works on our soil. Let us continue with that reputation. No matter who is going to be hurt, even if it is going to hurt the person of the commander-in-chief, assert the name and prestige of the army, maintain peace and order, and see to it that in your campaign against dissidents as well as in our campaign to insure a clean election, nothing can be said against the army because you have been able to live up to the expectation of the people.

Even if you are going to hurt the commander-in-chief, maintain clean elections. Respect nobody who would like to make of your army as a tool to enhance his political ambitions. That is going to be my last word. To add to it will be superfluous. I want you to have a merry Christmas when you go back to your respective areas, commands, and activities in the campaign against dissidence and communism, With you in the army, maintaining your prestige as you with the assurance that I am backing you up 100 per cent have already maintained it so far, I shall be happy, no matter what is going to happen in the future. Thank you very much. (Applause)

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1952). Extemporaneous remarks of the President at the Conference of AFP Area Commanders, Sector Commanders, Provincial Commanders, and BCT Commanders, at PN Headquarters, Dewey Boulevard, December 20, 1952. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 48(12), 5221-5226.

Fifty-First Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Fifty-First Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Broadcast from Malacañan, January 15, 1953]

Fellow Countrymen:

I have just returned from the last lap of a country-wide inspection to complete my physical observation of conditions obtaining in each region of our land. Before the war I had seen almost all the provinces of the archipelago. After making several tours during my present incumbency I have been able to round off my visit to the different sections of the country. As I now sit down to sum up my observations in all the provinces, I realize that great changes have taken place, especially during the last three or four years. They are to be noted in certain features of the landscape—a new road here, a new bridge there, a new provincial capitol, a new school building, a hospital, or puericulture center yonder; new ports, sea walls and river controls everywhere, and a new irrigation system and ~hydraulic plant somewhere; new farms, new factories, new homes, new municipal libraries; and even new parks, swimming pools, and playgrounds elsewhere.

Many of these are replacements of destroyed ones; others are there for the first time. Owing to the ingrained conservatism peculiar to our people especially in the countryside, these changes have made our people, especially some sharp critics, forget that we went through a holocaust seven years ago.

These improvements, however, are eloquent reminders not so much of the great efforts of our postwar government but of the direction of the thoughts of our citizens and of the great potentialities of social cooperation and the pooling of our resources.

Every new landmark is an affirmation of the aspiration and effort to better things. Perhaps it has not come to reality as quickly as professional Utopia manufacturers would want it, but it is there and indicates that something is in process and it operates only as fast as individual and social intelligence is prepared to accept a new setting under conditions set by the democratic instruments we seek to develop.

Those physical changes in public improvements are all the more remarkable for having been effected after the vast destruction of the last war, our recovery from which the world at large accepts to be nothing short of phenomenal.

Conditions have become normal in this country to such an extent that everybody or anybody can loudly complain in the press, over the radio, in any platform, inside the country and outside the country, in the most unseemly language; he may even profit from it, and still carry around with utmost assurance to enjoy the plaudits of his followers. Anybody here goes the limit in crying that there is no democracy here, or that democracy is dead, and he gets away with it, praises our courts of justice at the expense of the government at large for not slapping him in jail. Curiously enough, relieved from the distraction and distress of such old problems as inadequate rice supply, inadequate school space for his children, and fear from dissident terrorism and violence, he is the kind that usually eats well, dresses well, lives in a house of the latest design, does a lucrative trading, pays for influence when- he finds it to his interest, lolls about in coffee shops, gets his inspiration from yellow sheets,

Yes, there have been changes in this country under this administration. Our people in the countryside have a new feeling of security and new hopes. Of course, the improvements that they now enjoy set the tone for fresh demands for more and more of such improvements. But they have developed a new assurance, a new enthusiasm. This is manifested by the new enterprises they have started, new home industries, more modern methods of production, and the aggressive spirit they are exhibiting—pioneering in multifarious constructive activities at home and in the open field. Thus, you could see on mountain tops and isolated slopes as well as in the remotest valleys and farthest tips of

our shores, numerous dwellings and country homes of people working in their new settlements, in the mines, and in their fisheries.

On the part of the Government, this year will see the formal inauguration of our more ambitious projects vital to our agricultural expansion and industrialization program. The fertilizer plant and the numerous irrigation systems many of which are already in operation, including the irrigation project coordinated with the Ambuklao power plant, will raise our agricultural productivity, and the Maria Cristina power plant, the Mariveles shipyard, and the Iligan steel mill and new cement plant in La Union, will boost our industrial capacity.

These things do not just happen. They come from years of planning and effort and careful husbanding of our people's resources. They come from a deep realization that we must graduate from a mere raw materials nation and produce finished goods besides, in order to find liberation from the poverty peculiar to purely agrarian economies and to raise our people's living standard.

It is my constant prayer that, in spite of the forthcoming elections, our people can concentrate to do and accelerate what remains to be done. Even as some elements blow off steam in the belief that they are the only alternative to liberty, human decency, and progress, we can get on with our constructive responsibilities, muster our patriotism and new enthusiasm and energy to build for our country. We can do better than be discouraged by any attempt to disparage what our people have accomplished in these last few years against the most harassing odds, to cure age-long ills.

We can do only so much in our own time and with our opportunities. We have been doing just that, and we still continue doing it assiduously and conscientiously. We have done enough since liberation to prove our capacity and determination. We can do more to accomplish what it is allotted to us in our period, and enough to give those who will succeed us all the incentives they need to carry on the national task with utmost faith, confidence, and hope of fruitful fulfillment.

Above perfectly logical proposals, above neat and cleancut blueprints, are people—human beings, men and women— with their potentialities and limitations, and the vagaries of nature and human nature, and parties and nations. We must be satisfied that we do the best we can within the opportunities given us and not attempt to claim the privilege and prerogative of Divine Providence.

I am confident that as a people we have resources which, wisely utilized, can carry us through the new year ahead. With good will, with understanding, with broadening cooperation among ourselves, we should and can continue, despite politics, philosophers, and ambitious kingmakers, to improve our situation; we should and can maintain the respect of our neighbors and sustain our responsibility as part of the free world.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). The President's fifty-first monthly radio chat, January 15, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(1), 24-27.

Extemporaneous Remarks of President Quirino on the PNR Fund Campaign

Extemporaneous Remarks of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines In launching the PNR Fund Campaign

[Delivered at Malacañan, February 14, 1953]

Ladies and Gentlemen, and Friends:

Again, we are gathered this morning inspired by the humane feeling which easily brings everybody together in response to a public duty to help those who suffer from calamities which have been visiting our country quite frequently during recent years.

We have just experienced many of those calamities and disasters which regularly visit us. The frequency of these scourges of nature has developed in our people an increasingly alert and responsive national concern. This morning, I see an increasing number of people attending this annual occasion. I observe with great satisfaction that there is not only the same quality but greater quantity of response this morning. What is more, I wish to believe that all those who are here present this morning have felt in their hearts that they are here in a cooperative spirit and that their presence has not only touched our hearts but enlightened our spirit and will henceforth bring greater enthusiasm in the ensuing years in launching the National Red Cross drive.

We need certainly to create that feeling in our people because there must be a more aggressive spirit and more practical application of our concept of social amelioration by effectively making tangible not only these humane feelings of kindness but the feeling of neighborliness and love for our own countrymen.

We were witnesses to the recent destructive devastations wrought in the Bicol provinces and in pastern Visayas by typhoons *Trix* and *Wilma*. They rendered in October of 1952 over a million people homeless. The series of fires, floods, typhoons, and shipwrecks in the same year, as well as those calamities under our very nose in Manila and vicinity, made destitute and shelter less over 200,000 families. Thank God our people were, during those times of disaster, ready to do their bit through their material and moral support to our National Red Cross and to other individual and collective measures that administered relief and rehabilitation.

My great regret is that the government could not effectively, as we intended and as I personally wanted to do, extend more substantial relief, especially in my effort to Provide the necessary funds to give succor to the hundreds of thousands of sufferers in the Bicol and the Visayan provinces by emergency appropriation. And what was worse, in my attempt to go out of my way, to give vent to what was in my heart in giving immediate relief, I apparently stepped on the toes of some colleagues in the government, who prevented the continued flow of relief to typhoon stricken areas. But just the same, I was able to visit those places and give the sufferers first aid. But after all these, I was crucified at the altar of public opinion for having the highest motives in issuing my executive orders. There was nothing degrading, much less injurious to the public interest, and yet if I am going to be crucified for a humane deed; I am ready to be crucified again and, personally, I am making a personal sacrifice. What I was not able to secure from the government, I will secure from my empty pocket. I will give you now ₱1,000. (*Applause*)

Since its foundation, the Philippine National Red Cross, chartered by the laws of our Republic, has become to our people the symbol of compassionate service. It is not alone in times of disaster and emergency that the Red Cross services are felt. The Red Cross has a blood bank program that has been responsible for saving many lives on the operating tables, in the jungle terrains of the Sierra Madre, or even in the battlefields of Korea. It maintains a military welfare service that attends to the needs of our soldiers.

Through educational programs, the safety service branch inculcates and promotes safe living. This branch is responsible for services that you see during big outdoor programs, rallies, and parades and even for beach patrols

during the summer season. You may not have noticed it, but I want you to watch the activities of the safety services of the Red Cross.

There is also the nursing service which trains men and women in the care of infants and the sick at home. The members of the Red Cross get so enthusiastic every year that they might someday encroach upon the activities of the Department of Health. But there is no danger of competition because our people are so numerous and increasingly growing in number every year. You will be surprised that after ten more years, we will not only be 20 million but 30 million people. We are a growing people.

And the more the Red Cross service and health service are rendered to our people, the better for us, because, as we steadily increase in population, we shall also grow in our health correspondingly.

Another unit of the Red Cross is the home services, which helps in the solution of family problems, and works for the preservation of the integrity of the home. The Red Cross is invading our homes. It is getting ambitious, but we need its ministering spirit and service in the home in order to keep intact the family unit which is one of the sources of the stability of this nation.

People from across the seas come here and notice how stable a family life we have. Our people here are used to that traditional family life that has made our home the depository of those great moral values so necessary in the unity of our people. The Red Cross is trying to supplement this social advantage that we have and there is no danger for the Red Cross to come to our homes. If you are visited by the Red Cross agents or representatives, especially by the Gray Ladies (*applause*) who are implementing in the highest social manner the activities of the Red Cross and who are becoming increasingly useful to our communities, admit them. I want to commend the Gray Ladies because of the growing humane sentiment of our women, especially those who have no more families to attend to for having lost their husbands or children and have nothing to occupy themselves but humanity at large. (*Applause*)

The Junior Red Cross assists in citizenship training and contributes its share to the promotion of world friendship and understanding. This, again,—the promotion of world brotherhood and world unity—is perhaps another invasion of other activities by our Red Cross. This is quite ambitious but we need that spirit nowadays.

Thus, the Red Cross is not only expanding and intensifying its activities towards social amelioration in our respective communities in which they are organized but also promoting all those causes that would unite our people and make them feel orderly, happy, and contented.

So, as we gather here this morning and set the period for giving, not to the Red Cross, but through the Red Cross, for the maintenance of those established, and even of those new services, it is my pleasure to participate, as every year I have always participated, in intensifying this campaign so that in our country we may not be caught unawares if any emergency arises again as they have been arising in recent months.

This gives us the opportunity to renew our pledge for the continuing maintenance of these services. I therefore enjoin all our people to give all they can. I call on you, regardless of your national, political, social, or religious loyalty or affiliation, or regardless of your partisan feeling, to meet the call for the continuing support of our National Red Cross and to respond to the mandate of our Lord.

Your contribution is the best investment you can possibly make against any day of disaster and need which may include you individually, your family, your neighborhood, and your country. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). Extemporaneous remarks of the President in launching the PNRC Fund Campaign this year, at Malacañan, February 14, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(2), 455-457.

Fifty-second Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Fifty-second Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Broadcast on February 15, 1953]

My Fellow Countrymen:

Two leading topics have been occupying the minds of our people these days—the Constitution and construction.

While the politics-minded, in the cloak of scholarly and lofty disquisitions regarding the basic concept and operation of the Constitution in its application to pending state matters, have been lavishing their wit to crack at some executive actions on the basis of generalities, the constructive-minded elements have been centering their attention to the current economic development program, appraising the tangible work of construction implementing the program.

The two topics are of vital importance to our life as a nation. But to many there does not seem to be a clear appreciation of the fact that the Constitution is a framework of fundamental principles upon which the government should be established and that, to give life and vitality to it as a real working tool to build a new nation, the government that we establish must grow flesh and bones and have life-blood according as we invest honest energy and effort to produce something tangible and substantial, positive and permanent, to make the nation a living thing. In plain words, the government is not all principles, neither is the nation all ideals. Conversely the nation does not exist merely on materialism; it must have a soul, and its ideals are usually embodied in its Constitution.

Under such a concept, let us examine our advance in constitutionalism and construction.

An ulcerated view would be to look with pessimism upon the background and prospect involved in recent court decisions setting aside some executive actions.

What should be of lasting significance and value is not that certain acts of the executive department have been held unconstitutional but that we have a constitution from which our highest court derives the basis of freedom to rule their unconstitutionality without risk of driving the nation into chaos.

It is a credit to Philippine democracy that while the court decisions seem to provide so much political hay to the opposition party, no member or follower of the administration talks of force, violence, and bloodletting to even the score, in the same manner that, when the administration suffered rebuff in some parts of the country during the last election, nobody started or even attempted to start a rebellion therefor; nobody suggests revamping the court to liquidate seeming judiciary intransigence, or nobody threatens ousting suspected recalcitrants and packing the court with new members amenable to the president or to the party in power. Nobody adversely affected has begrudged the court the praise showered upon its members by favored elements. Its decision, whatever the implications, have been gracefully accepted by those not so favored. That is constitutionalism in flower.

I must emphasize the fact that in all the executive actions voided by the court, the executive department had been guided by time honored precedents or had been under the pressure of urgent exigencies. There is much of tradition in our Constitution, although it does not follow that it makes the action inspired by it as inevitably correct and inviolate.

Many laws and policies established during the Commonwealth regime, and as far back as the American regime, have been taken for granted and have been continued until after our independence proclamation.

Many of these, when tested under the new post-independence proving ground, have had to be modified and even discarded.

In the case of the appointment of provincial fiscals, the law is silent on as to whether these officials could be appointed from one province to another without their consent. Nobody raised this point before and the previous executives freely made appointments without consulting the officials to be affected. The Supreme Court ruled that this cannot be done, in deciding the case of Fiscal Lacson of Negros Occidental.

In the case of the appointment of the City Engineer of Baguio, despite the fact that the charter of the city provides that this official shall be appointed at pleasure by the President, the Supreme Court ruled for the first time that this official cannot be appointed to another province without his consent.

In the case of the suspension of the City Mayor of Manila, following the long-standing policy established during the Commonwealth administration, the Supreme Court ruled, again for the first time, that the mere filing of a criminal charge involving moral turpitude is no ground for suspension.

In the exercise of the emergency powers granted to the President by Act 671 in 1941, the Supreme Court ruled just a few days ago, for the first time, too, that such a law is no longer operative.

In the exercise of these powers, let me tell you and the whole world that in all conscience I have never been guided by considerations of personal or partisan advantage. I dare anybody to show otherwise.

There is only one, and this is the most important, actuation which reached the Supreme Court for whose issuance I have taken the responsibility, and that is the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus in cases of rebellion, treason, or invasion. I could not allow the people charged with subversion to roam freely in our midst killing innocent and helpless people, young and old, burning hospitals and patients in order to terrorize the government and sow chaos and confusion while their cases are pending in the courts of justice.

Fortunately, in spite of the uproarious opposition of the violent elements, the truculent criticism of the self-appointed defenders of civil liberties, who claim to be no sympathizers of the communists, and even the dire threats of rebellion of the rabid partisans against my actuation in this matter, the Supreme Court has upheld my proclamations.

In the typical cases mentioned we have accepted the validity of democratic processes or the constitutional test, and have found happy affirmation that our Magna Carta will survive.

What many of our people, even among my co-framers of the Constitution, apparently do not remember or refuse to acknowledge, is that there are certain duties and responsibilities under the Constitution that form part of the inescapable obligations of government which a conscientious, courageous, and farseeing administrator should assume in order to promote and safeguard the public welfare.

The Constitution is the general fountain source of powers to meet these duties and responsibilities, and in jealously safeguarding the sacredness and inviolability of the Constitution, we have established by laws and policies and by judicial decisions measures to maintain its integrity.

In some cases, however, the Constitution is silent, and legislation is non-existent, regarding the manner in which the interest of public welfare could be served by drawing authority from this fountain, or by regarding the way people could drink from the source to derive sustenance and assistance. It then becomes imperative for the caretaker or administration to find means, in case of necessity, to draw life-giving water from the fountain.

For instance, the Congress provided the means for the protection of the State in 1940-1941 by the grant of emergency powers to the President of the Philippines to meet the impending war crisis in 1941. There being no other means to meet other emergencies in later years, I used the same grant to prevent a national crisis in 1950 for the

failure to approve the annual appropriation and to give immediate relief to hundreds of thousands of sufferers in typhoon-stricken areas and for other calamities in 1952.

Is it a discredit, a disgrace, to be crucified at the altar of public duty? Can it be degrading and injurious to public interest that in being left no alternative to strengthen the national security and to mitigate the suffering of our people, I availed myself of powers which the courts never declared inoperative only until up to yesterday?

The verdict of history usually comes slowly. But for our immediate purposes, we should all be glad that all these legal and constitutional problems occupying the mind of our people, especially the confirmed detractors of this administration, have been settled in the most peaceful and orderly democratic procedure.

The constitution, incidentally, was made for the people and not the people, for the constitution. It is fallible and is by no means the ultimate revelation from the top of the mountain for all time. Therefore its role as a basic guide for action may be short of being perfect and complete, leaving duly constituted administrators the responsibility to act in the people's interest where it is silent or does not provide specific direction.

The constitution, as the result of the combined wisdom of the representative responsible minds of a nation at a given time, cannot be expected to anticipate every problem. We should be wary of attempts to make it an object of blind worship to rationalize purely partisan interests and predilections. It is best honored by a conscientious and honest adherence to its precepts in response to the needs and urgencies of the people and the period. The fact that there is recurring talk of revising it merely indicates that it is subject to the will and exigencies of the people whose organic law it is.

The letter killeth, as those who read, revere, and refer to, Holy Scriptures can attest. And so it becomes important that we attend to the spirit as well, to what dwells in the heart, and make sure that the love of God and truth and His creation is there to give the letter illumination and reality. Remembering this, we can permanently anchor our loyalty to constitutionalism as the civilian way of living together in the Republic, as the way of preserving our liberties and the decencies of social intercourse against the frenzies of the arbitrary and violent temper.

Now to turn to concrete matters. I have intended to dwell on the growing substance of our life as a nation as the basic requisite of our continued national existence. I regret that I shall have to reserve this opportunity for my next chat with you, in great expectation that by then I can concretely show the tangible development of our country in this direction. For the time being, I wish to invite you to visit our International Fair. We have opened the first international fair in Manila for all to see. The fair is a serious project of our time. In it we attempt to show, not that we have attained Utopia, but that we have moved forward, calamitous vicissitudes of all kinds notwithstanding.

The fair is a bold venture in construction in itself. There have been doubts about its possible realization; but now it is there. Its greater meaning lies in its concrete representation of our bold venture in nation-building across the centuries and across the brief span of years since the last war which nearly obliterated us.

Professional carpenters will discount the fair as they discount everything that this administration has done. Well, every citizen can see the fair, not merely to be amused, but to find out for himself that he has a good basis for personal and national confidence in his capacity, in his people's capacity, to build something lasting and concrete for the enhancement of the common welfare, even under the present organic law of the land and the obstructionism that is possible under its protection.

The fair provides something of a demonstration against which to test the reality and validity of total economic mobilization as an idea, as a working principle and a program. It gives, or tries to give, in positive terms the meaning of expansion in agricultural and industrial production. It summarizes within its limited compass the measure of economic, social and cultural well-being that has been restored and advanced since the great devastation visited upon the nation during the last war.

This is not an invitation to complacency but a challenge to our constructive instincts to follow up what has been done and to do even better. God knows we are a long way off the goal of perfect peace, freedom, and complete

contentment. But He also knows that we have a program and a constitution that sets a way of living for constructive, concrete, and positive ends.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). The President's fifty-second monthly radio chat, February 15, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(2), 458-462.

Remarks of President Quirino before the Officers of the Armed Forces

Extemporaneous Remarks of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines Before the officers of the Armed Forces

[Transcribed from stenographic notes at the Officers Club, Camp Murphy, March 4, 1953]

Officers and Men:

It is rather strange that although I am in the Armed Forces, I still have to be introduced by any man. I know by your movement, by your conduct, and even by the statements of people who are not connected with the armed forces that there is a great deal of anxiety because of my visit this morning in your camp.

Of course, this is the first visit I have made to your headquarters because this is the first time I am invited to visit it. And I am rather pleasantly surprised to see how orderly you are working, how well appointed, healthful, roomy, and breezy your respective offices are, all operating in an atmosphere at a perfect organization.

I am satisfied and happy to have made this visit with the result that I believe that the Armed Forces of the Philippines is well organized. There seems to be a little bit of tension, however, so I want you to relax for a moment and be with me in an intimate communication and discussion regarding our common problems which, to me, are the most important and pressing at this moment.

I wanted to come here as early as possible ever since we changed the Secretary of National Defense, in order to restore normalcy in your mutual attitude as well as in your organization. I want to infuse in you that feeling of security in your respective positions. Do not be afraid that a purge is coming. I see some apprehension, almost tearful expressions on some people's faces that I did not see before. Please be relieved. I did not come here to reorganize you. I did not come here to discourage you. All my purpose is to restore the normal functions of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and keep up the tempo of our campaign to solve the peace and order problem which has long been the concern of our people and this administration.

I have been wishing that we finish this campaign as soon as possible—this pacification campaign which had first priority in my agenda the moment I assumed office in 1948. You will recall that there were only two items that concerned me upon assumption of office: first, peace and order, second, the strengthening of the confidence of the people in this government.

We have not ceased in our campaign for pacification ever since, and have been on the gradual, steady upsurge in our activities. And I want to express my gratification over the results we have achieved so far due to the organized, determined effort not only on the part of the top brass but particularly because of the growing concern, the high morale and determination of the rank and file of our Armed Forces which in the past had not been apparent because of certain distrust on the part of our populace due to several abuses and irregularities, if not to indifference on the part of the rank and file in the provinces, especially in the outlying districts where the conduct of our men in the field had not been praiseworthy.

Gradually and steadily, however, we have been able to improve the morale of the Armed Forces 'with the reorganizations which we have been able to achieve since the time of General Anderson and even during the time of General Hobbs. You will remember that we had reorganized the army before Secretary Magsaysay stepped into office as Secretary of National Defense, but we found a good implementor in his person when he joined us, and he kept up the spirit, heightened the morale, and with his personal inspiration and influence, was able to present to our people a solid organization determined to face the problems confronting us with more courage, determination, and efficiency.

Now, what we regret is that the growing trend of efficiency and determination culminating in success had been distracted during the last few months by activities entirely foreign to the nature of the activities assigned to the Armed Forces. This has caused, as you well know, a great deal of stir not only in your ranks but even in the outside elements, for there had been a feeling during recent days of apprehension that even in your ranks here, you are becoming divided into cliques. This apprehension may degenerate to confusion which, if not controlled, will affect not only the efficiency of the Armed Forces but the respect and confidence of the people which we have hardly earned during the last few years.

I thought it was necessary for me to come and see you and inspire you in the new atmosphere of comradeship, of cooperation, of determination, and of patriotism, because after all what are we fighting for? What are we hiring soldiers for? Not merely to serve as butchers to kill our brothers, our peers all over the country who are misguided, misinformed, misdirected, or perhaps made desperate by the promptings of elements that are destroying the whole democratic institutions all over the world.

It is necessary therefore that at this moment we resume our earnestness, our solidarity, and the normal functions that have made us the real bulwark of democratic practices during the recent months. You are the depository of all that is necessary to impose here national discipline. And you cannot impose national discipline if those called upon to do so are distracted or dispersed, or do not trust one another, or are divided into opposite camps for reasons not entirely military or in connection with our duties as men responsible for the maintenance of peace throughout the country.

It looks rather strange that the feeling of our people today seems to be that we are more secure externally than internally. By negotiations, by understandings, if not by pacts and other forms of alliances with our friends and allies abroad, we have been able to establish here a network of security measures that will mean to us greater security in case we are invaded or there comes to us aggression in any form. We have many friends who have offered and even sought our cooperation to maintain regional security in this part of the world. And because of these arrangements we have made, arrangements which we have been able to secure by peaceful, friendly, cordial, and sympathetic means, we have been able to inspire in our people a better feeling of external security, and yet we have also shown that we have greatly progressed in our internal security campaign.

We should not neglect, we should not slow down in our present momentum in our campaign for peace and order in this country, precisely at a time when the people, in an electoral crisis that is impending, expect of the armed forces to be able to show sufficient strength in the execution of their duties to maintain peace and order. It is strange that at this time as we approach the impending electoral controversy, we witness a weakening in the direction of the armed forces.

I came here as commander in chief of the Armed Forces, to tell you in simple and clear words our duty at the moment. Your responsibility is as great as mine, or, I must say that my responsibility is even greater than yours. I mean to impose military discipline—to exact of every member of the Armed Forces his impartial duty, regardless of who is going to be affected by his conduct, to maintain peace and order to the limit. The success of any candidate, the success of any party, the success of any group of people in the coming elections, cannot be compared to the great responsibility that we assume in maintaining here, pure and strong, the democracy that we have established. Let candidates lose; let parties lose; let men nearest your hearts lose in the coming elections; but we must not lose the prestige and the strength of the democracy we have established here, for we have to sacrifice everything in the name of democracy. *(Applause)*

We are nothing but incidents in the administration of the affairs of this country. What are more important are the principles upon which this government has been established. In the elections of 1951, I directed, I say I directed—and I challenge anybody to gainsay what I am saying now—that clean and orderly elections must take place no matter what party was going to win or lose, even if my party was going to be defeated. I want that cleanliness repeated in the coming elections, even if it means the sacrifice of your commander in chief. *(Applause)*

There is nothing more sacred to me than the commitment that I accepted upon taking oath as President of the Philippine Republic. We are mere incidents in this institution. You and I will step out of it sooner or later to give way to others for the continuing interests and success of the government that we have established. But we must leave

behind us something upon which future groups in all generations can rely for the continued stability of the institutions which we have established.

So I ask you today, and I ask you tomorrow, and I will always be repeating to you here: to so conduct yourselves in a manner you have so conducted yourselves recently, without any interruption, with justice, with impartiality, with determination in the maintenance of peace and order, and to uphold democracy at any cost now and tomorrow. You may have your personal likes and dislikes; you may have your personal loyalties or disloyalties, Let us fling all of them now in a joint effort to uphold those principles upon which we were inducted into our respective offices.

The eyes of the nation are now focused on the Armed Forces of the Philippines. There are apprehensions and misgivings regarding the conduct of the Armed Forces in the near future. Should the armed forces participate in, or have anything to do with the coming elections? That should not be the proper question to ask. The proper question to ask is: "Shall the army continue enforcing national discipline and maintaining peace and order with impartiality and justice, so that the people may have peace of mind, peace in their vicinity in every corner of the Archipelago, so that the people may freely exercise their prerogatives and their suffrage in the choice of those who would hold the reins of government in the next elections?"

As a matter of fact, the conduct of the army should not be tested on the basis of an election. It should be tested on the basis of impartiality and justice in the maintenance of peace and order. We always thought in the past, because of past practices, that the Armed Forces had their own personal or group leanings. Let us erase that thought from the minds of our people. Let us see if we can create a new feeling of trust and confidence in the Army, inspired by recent practices or by associations which have modified our normal conduct as peace officers responsible for the execution of those measures that would insure real peace and order not only in this election but in all elections. Our people need that feeling of security and confidence because they too are beginning to be apprehensive, even fearful, regarding the conduct of the Army in the near future.

Let us not distract them, let us not weaken their confidence, by manifestations of conduct strange to our duty as peace officers. Our great concern should be to provide henceforth peace of mind in our communities, security in our homes, in our farms and factories, and even in the mountain fastnesses and ravines so that our brothers in the field can concentrate their attention daily to their constructive functions and continue their normal activities as inspired by the present movements of the execution of our plans of rebuilding or constructing a new country.

I am very much in earnest, my friends, to carry to completion, at least to some tangible fruition, those measures which I have espoused, included in our national program of action, in order to stabilize our country. We have hardly begun the construction and development of many of those which we have initiated and programmed. Although this year we are going to inaugurate many of them in strategic points of the country, there are many things included in this composite program of constructive activities that need to be implemented, if possible before December 30 this year. I would like you to cooperate with me in instilling in the minds of our people a feeling of security so that they could continue contributing their respective share in carrying out this program of national action so that we can present to our people evidences of accomplishments during this administration.

We are not concerned merely about big industries, about big projects or big enterprises—about million-peso projects that we are now constructing in various regions of the country. We are also concerned about the welfare of the masses in their respective communities, far away from the *poblaciones*, because they are exposed as victims of those who are spreading a gospel that only exists in propaganda but which cannot be carried out into practice because the propagandists lack the means; they only promise. It is these people in the outlying districts—the less fortunate and ignorant—who are easy victims of this campaign that need to be helped, assisted, and lifted. We have branched out throughout the provinces with central organizations that we have established in Manila and elsewhere in the country in order to reach these elements in every nook and corner of the Archipelago.

I would like you to do everything that you can to instill in the minds of our people our success in serving the outlying districts, so that they can be more responsive, more sympathetic, and more cooperative in the carrying out of this program of social amelioration in their respective communities. Only you men, the men who guard the fields, the men who guard the lumber concessions, who guard the mines, who guard all the enterprises far from

populations—that means you—can give the proper feeling of security to the people whom we seek to serve. We want to reach them with a responsive mind.

I said once, and I want to repeat, that I would like to see when you go out in the fields, in the barrios, in the sitios, and in the mountains in your uniform, that people can point to every one of you and say, “There goes my protector, my savior, the man responsible for peace and order in my home, in my field, in my farm, and in my barrio.”

We have been able to instill that sentiment for a moment, but somehow the continued campaign of our competitors in the field who continuously are making propaganda contrary to what we are making, have been able to win from us that growing confidence we have already been able to achieve in the mind and soul of the populace. Let us win back that trust and confidence we have been able to instill in the people’s mind, but which, because of our distracted and discontinued activities in several fields, we have lost temporarily.

Surely, we are not going after the dissident elements merely to kill them. We have adopted measures of attraction giving them lands, giving them food, giving them shelter, giving them protection all over the country. Your mission as well as mine is not that of hired butchers. It seems strange that people say otherwise now. Let us be true to ourselves. Let us not confuse the minds of our people regarding fundamental conduct and fundamental loyalties that we owe to the people. It is necessary to go to the people directly and repeat what we have been telling them before: that our purpose is to give them a chance to lead better lives and to give them better protection necessary in order that they can discharge their normal functions in their home and in their community.

I came, therefore, this morning to awaken in you that new spirit of normalcy in resuming your duties. And, if at any time you have ever wavered in the accomplishment of your task, I make a common pledge with you in this very hall as we determine to discharge our duties in the maintenance of peace and order, in instilling a feeling of security in our populace everywhere, and in protecting the democratic institutions which we have established to the end that we may be worthy of the gratitude of our people for having been able to restore normal life, normal activities, in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility in this era of construction and development. Our country needs us for this purpose. Let us not run away from it. Let us with devotion dedicate our time to our common task of making this country strong, a worthy ally of our democratic friends abroad.

Our country may be called upon to play another important role in the immediate future. I foresee that something may require us to present a united front and live up to our commitment; that in the defense of our allies, we can take care of ourselves, of our internal security, because our friends and allies will cooperate with us in the maintenance of our external security.

It will be the saddest commentary to our people if, after all the efforts we are exerting to make this country strong and progressive, we should lack the unity and strength needed to protect it from subversive elements who, when the communists come—if they come—will fight us, perhaps divided with a greater portion of our elements joining them as guerrillas. It will be the greatest disgrace to our country if after the long years and centuries of struggle culminating in the liberty which is already in our hands, we allow a portion of our populace to rob us of our opportunity to continue existing as a sovereign country, simply because we do not know how to control our local institutions and allow these elements who even invite cooperation from abroad, to deliver this fruit of our energetic struggles and sacrifices to another power that will destroy our democratic system.

It is the great responsibility of this government and of this country and of our race that we should maintain all the necessary solidarity to keep us strong enough to face any issue that may come to threaten our national existence. You who are at the front—you and I who are responsible for the present state of peace and order and the orderly administration—we have to answer from our graves for the curse of the coming generation. I hope that curse will never come, and friends, again I appeal to you, and I want to instill in your mind and soul the necessity of pulling together, of putting our heads together, so that we can stand as a strong unit against communism, against internal dispersion, and against all the enemies of our progress and stability as a nation. (*Applause*)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). Transcription from stenographic notes of the extemporaneous remarks of the President before the officers of the Armed Forces at the Officers Club, Camp Murphy, March 4, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(3), 898-904.

Fifty-Third Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Fifty-Third Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Released on March 15, 1953]

My Fellow Countrymen:

In my last radio chat I intended to speak of the Constitution and construction. For lack of time I had to reserve for this occasion the subject of construction.

But as I try to concentrate to present to you the tangible results of the program of this administration, we begin to be alarmed by the premature production of steam in our political cauldron. It now becomes apparent that the boiling point is being reached too early. This fact, I noticed the other day when one of the distinguished members of the opposition made the irresponsible statement, which to me is a serious accusation, that the Quirino administration has done nothing but rob our people of their wealth and freedom.

I have been observing the persistent and systematic campaign of disparagement and derision of the accomplishments of my administration in a well-studied blindness manifested in the most vulgar language. Of all people, the author of this statement who aspires to lead his people soberly, has the least to complain about the loss of his wealth or that of his freedom, because instead of becoming poorer he has been steadily increasing his wealth every year since he became President of the Japanese-sponsored Philippine Republic, so much so that he is now required by the Bureau of Internal Revenue to pay more taxes than what he had paid to the treasury, for undeclared increase of his net worth which involves an additional amount of income tax and war profits tax reaching over half a million pesos.

On the other hand, he could not complain, as far as I am concerned, that his freedom has been lost or even curtailed, for I perfectly remember those days when only as vice-president I was honored several times by his visit in my home on Dewey Boulevard, appealing to me to convince President Roxas to issue the proclamation of amnesty in his favor and that of his associates then indicted for treason. Certainly he did not call on me to return a visit to his mansion which I never made. Although he now says that he did not want, the amnesty, the fact is that he accepted it and through it recovered his absolute freedom.

But the topic I reserved for discussion tonight is the construction work in this country since liberation. I shall not speak, of what we have planned or intend to do, but of what has already been done and are being done. For this matter, I invite you to open your eyes and see all around you throughout the country and evaluate the construction accomplished since 1945 or after the inauguration of our new Republic in 1946.

We have rebuilt our houses from the debris of war, we have made new and better ones, and we are continuing to build more. We have built thousands of homes for the homeless. Even the self-styled champions of the homeless have built or acquired beautiful mansions which they never had before the war. We have shed off the rags and tatters of the Occupation and the Liberation. We have established many new industries. We have opened up and actually settled thousands of hectares of our public lands. Our rising food needs have been sustained by increasing productivity and production. We have raised the level of living of our people and maintained the value of our peso as one of the most stable currencies in the world. We have increased our national wealth from ₱4 billion in 1946 to over ₱7 billion in 1952.

All these have come to pass in the midst of an epoch loud with obstructionist and embittered hecklers, and in a world torn by cold and hot wars. All these have raised our standing and sustained our dignified and effective role in the concert of free nations.

Within seven years, all these have come to be taken for granted by many of our people, without realizing that it is the administration that has provided the proper climate and incentive to enter upon the present era of development, industrial awakening, and prosperity.

Those of us whose memory has not been dulled by good living attained under a Liberal administration may recall the time when under the Japanese rule the slightest whisper of dissent spelt self-destruction and collective suffering, when every citizen was compelled to be grateful for the privilege of mere existence by sufferance of those holding the lash of arbitrary power.

Gone are those days. We can now tune our radio day and night to the brashiest commentator systematically denouncing an administration that gives him security in his rights to send his children to any school of his choice, to get the kind of rice he chooses to eat in any quantity he can consume and collect. Ambitious aspirants to power can now conduct their feuds and maneuvers with a full, richly-financed complement of all the formidable contraptions and facilities of high-pressure sales propaganda sustainable only in a relatively restored and prosperous democratic economy. This may be a dubious benefit in a democracy, but it certainly is a symptom of increasing normalcy in a free society.

Yes, we are again at the threshold of what promises to be a crucial election season. Every time this period comes around, people see much to be amused at or to deplore. Some look upon it as something of an occasion for a grand circus or a rodeo or as a necessary nuisance intimately tied up with the democratic system.

The fact is that it can be both and very much more—it is a recurring test of the validity of our free institutions. The behavior of our leaders and our rank and file during this period furnishes the measure of the value we place in the privilege and opportunity that is ours to affirm our loyalty to those institutions.

We are, in this particular year, fortunate to have attained a degree of security and well-being at home and of dignity and prestige abroad. And so it is likely to imagine we can indulge our passion for politics and personalities in relative safety. But I would not wish that we should rely unduly upon that circumstance.

Our acceptance of the democratic and constitutional way is a continuing ordeal and responsibility, and I desire to reiterate a plea for sustaining an ample measure of dignity, tolerance, and fair play in the bid of rival political leaderships for the people's mandate. Political strategists in any democratic struggle have immense leeway in the exploitation of tactics to confuse and defeat the opposing rival. But it would be well to remember in the heat of the contest not to foster passion, hate, and Confusion to the extent of providing opportunity to the real enemy lurking in the background, waiting to deal a deadly blow to the democratic way of life which we all are pledged to support, defend, and preserve.

Elections are not a necessary evil whatever are their attendant follies and incidental abuses. They are an imperative that is both a test and an education to free men who are convinced that there is no alternative to the dignity and liberty of a responsible citizen in a democracy.

The question is not whether we should shun politics but whether we are capable of raising their level steadily, and certainly this election year is a fresh opportunity to show our capacity to do so. We do not have to apologize that we as a democracy have not been exemplary. No democracy is; no people are. But I submit that with our precious heritage as a Christian nation, we have the potentiality for continually improving our behavior in a manner to encourage good will, charity, and honor even among confirmed political opponents.

Giving allowance for the heat any close electoral contest generates, we can assert anew the basic strength of democracy in this country by utilizing our ample resources of mental honesty, tolerance, and sportsmanship in assessing and making the right choice of available leaderships demanded by the present development and exigencies of our nation.

Let me make a confession. If there is any consideration that has weighed heavily with me to incline to the party proffer of presidential nomination, it is the desire to show, as I have been impliedly challenged, that under my

administration and direct responsibility, we can have this year another record of a free, orderly, and clean election. I am determined to maintain at all costs a free and honest expression of the people's supreme will.

You will recall that I accepted without rancor the reverses of the Liberal Party in the 1951 elections. I found no occasion to thunder around with threats of bloodshed and rebellion. I expect to have no reason to accept with less grace and honor whatever may be the verdict of our people in this year's elections. I expect to have no occasion either, at least for my part or that of my party, for anybody to incite our people to irresponsible violence or to truculent contempt of constitutional authority.

I am sure our people will see through the well organized expensive propaganda designed to mislead them. I trust that as a whole our people hold the precious reserve of intelligence and wisdom for shifting the goods of the open political market and distinguish the genuine article from what is shabby and false. I believe they can identify and understand the real issues of this year's elections and shall rally anew to the leadership responsible for the positive, concrete, and definite program of reconstruction and development that to date is fast finding generous translation into happy fact.

Our people have sufficient sense and intellect to appraise the true value of equivocal disquisitions on democracy and constitutional theory used largely to cover up an appalling and gross sterility in economic understanding and social vision. I am confident they can recognize and isolate, for what they are, those who have relied on obstructionism and the sour sympathy of confirmed subverters of our democratic system in an effort to frustrate a positive program of nation-building.

Yes, I have faith in our people and in the kind of freedom they are painfully building up as a proper inheritance to leave to our children. In this year of deep searching and examination, mine is the prayer that God will deal kindly with us, guide us, hold our faltering hands, and enable us to use to the best advantage of our nation the serene and clear judgment essential to pick the men needed to continue the program of nation-building in all the phases of our national life and to hold high our name and prestige as a new nation.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1953). The President's Fifty-Third Monthly Radio Chat, March 15, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(3), 904-908.

Pledge of President Quirino to fight communism here and anywhere with U. S.

**Pledge
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To fight communism here and anywhere with U. S.**

[Delivered on March 21, 1953]

Mr. Ambassador, Ladies and Gentlemen and Friends:

It is more pleasant for me to receive than to deliver. I was always at the receiving line during the last few years and it has been my privilege until today to accept periodically assistance from the United States in order to equip us properly to meet our obligations or commitments in accordance with our understanding and agreements with the United States for mutual security of the people.

I had the fortune, the good fortune and privilege of having intervened from the very beginning in matters affecting not only the granting of independence to the Philippines but also the making of military arrangements to make that independence secure. I had a hand in the American participation in the preparation of the Tydings-McDuffie Law, with Senator Tydings way back in 1934, and in the discussion preparatory to the introduction of this bill into law, we had full consideration in the minute arrangement between the United States and the Philippines, especially with regard to military bases in the Philippines.

And when our independence was granted eventually in 1946, again I had the privilege and good fortune of dealing with the American Government in preparing the bases agreement, in the discussion of which we reiterated the fundamental understanding between the United States and the Philippines regarding our mutual security and mutual defense. I was also very instrumental as Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Vice President, in the final signing of the treaty of the military assistance pact with the United States under whose provisions are the periodic sending to the Philippines of military equipment, technical advice, as well as supplies and other equipment necessary to prepare us for our obligation in accordance with our military assistance agreement. Many of these have been received by me personally as Secretary of Foreign Affairs, until a recent date. There has been only a very short interregnum when I did not accept personally further military assistance from the United States.

As I resume today the practice of receiving personally a part of this assistance to strengthen our internal as well as external defense, my enthusiasm is without bounds. It certainly began with me directly participating in the granting of independence, directly participating in the preparation of the military assistance agreement, directly participating in the preparation of the treaty, on the United States bases that are now being developed in this country, and directly participating in every other manner to make more effective the agreement and understanding for our future defense and security in this country and this vicinity.

You will therefore understand my natural and personal interest in participating in these ceremonies this morning. To me it is not only heartening but reassuring that America continues unabatedly to give the assistance that we are receiving periodically in this country.

It is with great pride that I acknowledge the United States' continued interest in preparing us for statehood and in insuring the endurance of the Republic.

I therefore express the deep gratification of this country, of our people and this government. I especially take pride in the fact that after participating in all those agreements which have culminated in the delivery of all these assistance to the Philippines, I am again participating directly in the acceptance of more equipment because we need them very badly at this moment.

No matter what is going to happen now between our allies and our common enemies, as long as we have the assurance that the United States continues with her interest, enthusiasm, and determination to fortify morally, physically, and militarily the islands to which America has given her heart and compliments for the perpetration of these high principles that have been the basis and foundation of the Philippine Republic, we here in the Philippines rejoice in the fact that we can still continue to feel that America is at our side, that America is behind us, that America has still a high concern, love, and affection for us.

Mr. Ambassador, I want to thank you and, through you, the Government of the United States, for this latest evidence of America's determination to live up to her understanding with the Philippine Government with the assurance that as far as we are concerned, we will play our role loyally to the fullest extent here and anywhere with American friends for the maintenance of democracy throughout the world.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). Pledge of President Quirino to fight communism here and anywhere with U. S. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(3), 908-910.

Remarks of President Quirino after the luncheon he gave in honor of Former Governor Adlai Stevenson

**emarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
After the luncheon he gave in honor of Former Governor Adlai Stevenson**

[Delivered on March 29, 1953]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This is not the formal occasion for us to hear although we expect good speeches from our friend who has just arrived from abroad. But we cannot forego the privilege of hearing one of the most interesting speakers during this— our times. Precisely, one of the reasons why you were invited to join us on this occasion is to have an opportunity to size up at close range our distinguished guest, one who almost became President of the United States. (“Almost is a curious word,” Stevenson said aside.) (*Laughter.*)

I know that he came to the Philippines on a cultural mission. To my understanding, he has reached our shores and will perhaps visit other shores in this vicinity in an effort to gather sufficient materials and to make useful observation regarding life in this region. But I have the lurking suspicion that his mission will not merely be to come and gather data but to learn from the Filipino people how to win an election.

But rather than learn from us, I should say that he came to teach us how to rise with the fall and how to be always on top once you have reached it because that is in my estimation, the final outcome and analysis of all his political career. He does not mind the temporary setback in a career as long as he has been able to follow his fundamental objective in life which is to help strengthen the basic principles upon which each government ought to be established. He is well-known for that and he has established that reputation.

And rather than come and learn from us, I am quite sure we will learn a great deal from him from his experience. It will be a lasting benefit to learn the great lesson that he has taught his people and will teach our people. You are more familiar than I am because you have had more time perhaps to read about his activities while in the United States during the recent months and his admirable and fascinating public career as well as the pattern of public life which he has set for the American people and other peoples to learn and to emulate; also the new trend of practice and thought that he has established for the guidance of future political developments’ in his own country. I am proud, our people are proud, and this region is proud to have him with us because he gives us a new inspiration, a new incentive, and a great encouragement at a time when we are becoming more concerned about our local conditions, when our people’s minds are becoming befuddled in a too early electoral commotion.

Unfortunately for his above mentioned, purpose of seeing conditions here, he arrives in our midst at a time when conditions are not well settled. There is dispersion of activities and thought bordering on deterioration of our political development after having exhibited during the last three or four years such wonderful effort in nation-building.

The developments in this country during the last two or three years have been the object of observation not only of friends and allies abroad but of foreigners who did not see our country before the war and who have arrived here amazed at the great strides taken in our work of reconstruction and rehabilitation, and the speed with which we have founded here a new, stable, and peaceful government, notwithstanding the derogatory descriptions of our own local deprecators and illwishers.

The whole world recognizes the Philippines as a new institution in democracy that can well be emulated by others of the same political history as we have had. For centuries and centuries, we have wanted to be free and independent. For centuries and centuries, we have not been able to center our attention on economic development and thus establish here a firm foundation for the enjoyment of our liberty and freedom.

It was only during 1946 and 1947, or thereafter, up to this date, that we have been able to concentrate our mind and organize our wits, our genius, and inspire in ourselves a new vision, a new determination to rise from our recent prostration and found here a political institution that we hope will last.

And this experience of the last two or three years has given us a new name and fame. But at a time when we are about to complete—because we have already well begun our program of development, with an ambitious program of general development in all the phases of our economic and financial history—we find ourselves caught in the midst of an electoral commotion that may lead to misinterpretation of our acts and even deeds during this moment.

I said that it is unfortunate that Governor Stevenson arrived in our midst at this stage of our political development because in his eagerness to hear, to examine, to observe, to analyze, and to be convinced of the real conditions obtaining here, I know that he has been ready and willing and happy to meet all elements who will be able to furnish all information and observation that he needs to round off a complete appraisal of our situation in the Philippines in many things which need not reach his ears in comparison to the great issues, the fundamental issues upon which we are now basing the development of this country.

But analytical as he is, deep and shrewd as he is, I am quite sure he will see through this maze, superficial, partisan political confusion while we are engaged in a local competition to show what element of this country is more earnest in cleaning this country of graft and corruption, and who is more glamorous in this country. We may distract him but I am sure his keen sense of perception will guide him to the just channels that will give him the benefit of sizing us up as we are, as we should be in our aspirations, and our accomplishments and our expectations of the future.

Gentlemen, it is not for me to talk. I have just prepared these few remarks as a background for the interpretation of several events which Governor Stevenson might observe during his short stay with us. But what is more of interest to us is to hear from him some encouraging, inspiring, elevating, ennobling talk that has made the American people expect of him to be one of the greatest American president . . . (*Applause*)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). Remarks of President Quirino after the luncheon he gave in honor of Former Governor Adlai Stevenson. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(3), 910-912.

Remarks of President Quirino at the inauguration of the NASSCO Shipyard in Mariveles, Bataan, March 31, 1953

**Transcription of the Extemporaneous Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the inauguration of the NASSCO Shipyard**

[Released in Mariveles, Bulacan, March 31, 1953]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At long last I am relieved of the continuous anxiety that brought me here no less than a dozen times in the recent past to see that this dry dock is completed.

We meet here, brought together by a new human concept which is totally different from the old concept of what would be realized in this vicinity. During the early part of the Spanish administration as well as during the whole period of American occupation, this area was conceived to be an area dedicated to national defense. This channel between Corregidor and Mariveles was supposed to be a naval Thermopylae by which to keep the invader who would penetrate toward Manila Bay and crush the Philippines through its capital. That continued to be the concept of previous administrations up to the last world war.

One afternoon, contemplating the crossfire between Corregidor and Mariveles during the last few days of the conquest of these islands by the Japanese when we used to get together along the beach of Manila Bay to see not only the beautiful sunset which has made Manila famous or Corregidor renown, but the exchange of fire and flashes from the mouths of the guns that were exchanged between Corregidor and Bataan during those latter days of the Occupation, we realized then not only the beauty of the sunset but the furious exchange of fire between two enemy guns in Corregidor and in Bataan.

But when the Philippines was eventually retaken by the United States, there was a new concept, a new vision, a new inspiration that set in our mind, in the wake of the granting of independence which was then given us to give Us an opportunity to develop this land in accordance with our own genius, our own inspiration, and our own effort.

That change of concept has conceived this vicinity as an industrial district, no longer as we discovered during the last world war to utilize that channel for national defense purposes but to use it as a gateway to Manila in order to open new facilities such as the building of a new dry dock supposed to be the biggest in the Orient and which would give us a basis for our industries and encourage the development of maritime industry. It is true that we first encouraged maritime shipping by the acquisition of three ocean-going vessels, one of which is the Dona Aurora which brought many of you here. But it is also true that something was conceived to be of greater and far-reaching importance than the mere acquisition of oceangoing vessels.

We conceived a new, entirely new idea for the establishment of basic industries as the secret of a new venture at industrialization. We thought of building hydroelectric plants. We thought of establishing a fertilizer plant. We thought of promoting and establishing more irrigation systems. We thought of establishing this shipyard as a basic industry necessary to promote and, to some extent, develop industries connected to these basic industries and to supply actual requirements of the industries to be organized under this impetus.

For long, long years, and until lately, our country has been regarded only as a producer of raw materials to supply the requirements of industrial countries. We have refused for some time to accept that role in our economic development but have not been able to show that we can also develop our country industrially. But nowadays, after having established so many industries in the Philippines, inviting foreign capital to make investments here in order to multiply our industries, many new industries have been established. There are now 165 new tax-exempt industries in the Philippines.

We wanted to go farther by establishing these basic industries to show that this country can be also developed industrially. It is not our hope to develop this country and make a complete change in our economic activities—from an agricultural country to an industrial one. But we do know that there are so many products we are producing here that need to be industrialized because if we continue to produce export products it would simply mean enslavement by industrial countries which we only supply with raw materials.

And, my friends, the establishment of this dry dock in Mariveles is one of the means to show that the country can be industrialized. There are one thousand and one reasons to convince us that the establishment of a dry dock will save not only dollars but at the same time the necessity of having to go abroad for the purpose of repairing ships which we are in daily need of increasing or extending the volume in order to cope with international commerce, especially with products that need to be transported more economically than before, in view of keen world competition.

The establishment of the dry dock, therefore, is part of a huge program of development. It is not only because of the insistence of Colonel Bautista and Mr. Abrera that I decided to establish here or approve the establishment of this shipyard that we are inaugurating this day. It had to form part of the general program of development, a program which I ambitiously called total economic mobilization program.

Those who deride the program, those who disparage the results, those who fail to see from afar or through the future the great advantages of following this program, will begin to realize this year that this program is not a mere theory. It is not a mere philosophy, it is not a mere vision, it is not a mere shibboleth to attract people together or give them more confidence on the effectivity of the program of development that we have adopted.

This year we are inaugurating not only this shipyard but also the fertilizer plant as well as the hydroelectric plant in Maria Cristina, Lanao. This year we will also inaugurate the steel mill in the same vicinity, and during the latter part of the year we will also, be inaugurating another branch of the cement plant in La Union.

In our program of economic development, therefore, we have tried to cover all the necessary preparations by establishing basic industries to make the country industrially able to meet our requirements in order to supply the needs that have been supplied by foreign importers.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure, it is a great source of pride, and it is a great incentive to the country to see the plant established here, the drydock that is being inaugurated today. History will record our great efforts in this epoch.

When before, dreaming was the only thing about development in our mind, ten or twenty years hence, when we review the steps taken today, since America gave our freedom on July 4, 1946, we shall be able to show the real Filipino genius, determination, and capacity to stand the criticism of any generation. I hope that with this auspicious beginning, as the years go by, we will increase all these evidences of the capacity of the Filipino people not only to maintain their own government but to maintain their name and prestige in world affairs.

And, my friends, I congratulate those who have initiated the establishment of this dry dock and those who have effectively cooperated in the realization of that plan.

This is one of the greatest examples of cooperative effort on the part of the government. I hope that from now on there will be less talk and more work, there will be more concentrated effort in our constructive activities and less criticism, and there will be more sensible thinking people rather than silly political talks in our midst. (Applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, I want you to take stock of, analyze, interpret, and realize in conscience what is being done for you. This dry dock alone, you may not know how many laborers will be employed here. No less than three thousand, three thousand of the numerous laborers displaced from offices in Manila. In our effort to economize, we reorganized government corporations and reduced their number. We now have only 23. We used to have more than 30. And as people who were discharged have to be accommodated somewhere, we have to create more opportunities, we have to open more lands, and we have to establish industries in order to give them opportunities for employment elsewhere, in order to reduce the number of unemployed.

With 165 new industries, do you know how many of the unemployed are being accommodated? The lands we are opening, are now being settled by them. Do you know how many people are being given lands and homes in order to have the capacity to produce and provide the wherewithal for each family? Do you know that the efforts we are making in building this country are of a wide range which were not conceived during those days of idealism, when we were just crying loud to the sky asking Heaven to give us the freedom that we need? Those days of idealism are gone.

These days are days of hard work, and I invite you, my friends, to realize the importance of the project we are now realizing because this spells the future capacity of the Filipino people to stand on their own feet, with their own government and with the opportunity to establish here a firm, strong foundation upon which we could base the continued enjoyment of our liberty and freedom. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). Transcription of the extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino at the inauguration of the NASSCO Shipyard. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(3), 915-918.

Fifty-fourth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino

Fifty-fourth Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Broadcast on April 15, 1953]

My Beloved Countrymen:

We are now going through, a periodic ordeal of the democratic system as developed in this country. Daily from now until November, the ordeal will grow in virulence and require a stout heart and steadfast faith in the basic wisdom of our free institutions.

The citizen of average sensibility and mental honesty is apt to recoil with disgust at the shabby methods used and the abuses committed against public intelligence in the struggle for political victory. It would be well to bear in mind that the actors and the audience are mere human beings, and on occasion they behave even less than like rational men. In that case, since you can do only with what material you have, you need a touch of humor to protect yourselves and to survive the ordeal in the interest of democracy.

As key to its so-called crusade at its convention in the Manila Hotel fiesta pavilion last Sunday, the opposition, through Senator Recto, rose to new heights of literature in elaborating the opposition theme tersely expressed before by Senator Laurel on his birthday—that all the Liberal administration has done in the last seven years was to rob the people of their wealth and freedom. On this issue they expect to march to power through a new knight recruited from the hated “corrupt” Liberal Party. I accept the challenge.

I reckon gratitude to be a despised virtue among the members of the opposition. I do not expect them to be grateful for having become rich under the Liberal administration as importers of flour and various other commodities in short supply or as shrewd dealers in real estate. Nor do I expect them to be grateful for their economic recovery under this administration, which is nothing short of phenomenal. The Nacionalista triumvirate, Senators Eulogio Rodriguez, Jose P. Laurel, and Claro M. Recto have just been required by the Bureau of Internal Revenue to pay additional income tax and war profit tax to the amount of ₱2,000,000 ₱539,000, and ₱800,000, respectively, for undeclared increase in wealth.

Not that I am anxious to take credit for their prosperity, but I must cite this unimpeachable reality to show that the administration could not have been so thorough in robbing at least the most articulate of our population leading the Nacionalista Party. Even minus the taxes they are evading by underdeclaration, their increased wealth is far from middling. The administration has a right to collect if only for providing the favorable atmosphere for their unusual prosperity.

But gratitude, which is supposed to be a strong virtue among Orientals if not among ultra-nationalistic Orientalists, may at least be due to a Liberal administration out of whose alleged corruption has been nurtured, to undreamed heights of glory, a paragon of incorruption who repeatedly calls himself an honest man. And now this savior of the opposition is expected to lead a leader-bankrupt party to victory, and to fresh raids on the public treasury, by his new found associates who conceal their income. He is, in the words of Senator Laurel himself, to be their “instrument in the capture of Malacañan.” Capture of Malacañan! Is this a cotta, a fortress? They can come in any time with clean hands and with accomplishments. A Diogenes, using his lantern to scrutinize his honest man, should be prepared for strange surprises in appraising the new company this honest man keeps.

I do not have to tell you who they are and what havoc they have been doing on the common well-being and the good name that the administration has earned for having restored the country to its feet. I do not have to tell you what obscure, energetic young men this administration has given the opportunity to rise and, after success, go over to revive a moribund opposition.

My only quarrel with these professional carpers and detractors, to whom the will to power has become a pathological complex of hate and envy in the classic communist form, is that for all their ready propensity to exploit Holy Scriptures, forgetting to apply the Scriptures to themselves, they seem never to have even glimpsed its central message of truth and charity. They remind you of a slick, old character who just loves to quote the good book to suit his dark purpose. They assume that all their customers are incapable of getting wise to them. They operate on the theory of let the people be damned, because they are fool enough to believe in the simple decencies of democracy. They protest and profess the people's interest and in the same breath sabotage all endeavors to help them in the name of constitutional literalism. Better starve and die than be caught in the cardinal sin of appearing to be unconstitutional. This is the philosophy of those who thrive on weaving fancy words as substitute for actual assistance in a crisis.

But we should not be endlessly dragged into this kind of negative, sterile talk if we are to relieve our people from the nauseating atmosphere of mutual recriminations and lead them to a wise selection of those who will guide our nation's destiny in the next four years.

In my message to Congress last January 26, I reported to that body, and therefore to our people, the accomplishments of this administration.

I sum them up as follows:

“Owing to the marked improvement in the state of law and order, our people have been able to concentrate their attention on the development of their farms, industrial activities, and other productive ventures.

“Our external security has been greatly enhanced by a mutual defense treaty with the United States and by the accelerated implementation of our military assistance pact with her, as well as by the clarification and strengthening of our common defense efforts of long standing.

“Our finances have been bolstered. Our National Government revenue jumped from ₱316,302,246.09 in 1949 to ₱611,460,943.82 in 1952, with the purchasing power of our peso maintained and its value recognized as one of the most stable in the world.

“Our national economy has been so improved that the national income has increased from ₱4 billion in 1946 to over ₱7 billion in 1952.

“We have raised the salary standard, stabilized the status, and liberalized the privileges of the rank and file of the personnel of the National Government, especially the teachers, the nurses, the enlisted men in the Army, and the low-salaried employees, providing adequate pension and retirement systems for them, as well as homes for the homeless, giving each the opportunity to purchase them at very low cost from the government.

“Our essential public services have been progressively improved and expanded, spreading throughout the country the benefits of health, education, and social welfare for our people to enjoy. Our death rate has been reduced; our birth rate, increased. The hardy perennial problems of inadequate school space and inadequate rice supply have become things of the past. And what is more, prices have gone down, living standards have been raised, and the lot of the common man, especially the laborer, has been greatly improved. We have fixed a decent minimum wage for him.

“Our foreign relations have grown and so developed that one of the sources of our strength is, in the sympathy and high regard of our friends across the seas.

“All these have placed us in a firmer and sounder position, increased our international credit, and enhanced our name and prestige abroad.”

And may I add that after, delivering my message to Congress last January 26, I can now assert that this will be the third fiscal year that we have been able to balance our budget. We balanced our budget in 1950-1951. We balanced it again in 1951-1952, and in this fiscal year, 1952-1953, I am quite sure we can proudly say that our budget is going to be balanced again. I remember that for the first time in 1934, I recall it because I was then Secretary of Finance, we balanced our budget, but never for a period of three successive years have we balanced our budget and yet, during this post-liberation, after our start from prostration, we have been able in five years to balance our budget for the first time in 1950-1951, in 1952, and then in 1953. Besides this, we have created an atmosphere favorable to investors who want safety for their investments in this country. Thus, we have encouraged them to come, and as a result no less than 165 new tax exempt industries were organized. Since I delivered my message on January 26, 1953, we have inaugurated the NASSCO Bataan shipyard, the biggest of its kind in the Orient. Next month we will inaugurate two other basic industries: the Maria Cristina hydroelectric plant and the fertilizer plant established in Iligan, near the same plant. Next September, we will inaugurate the steel mill near the Maria Cristina plant. Some time after that, we will inaugurate another industrial plant, the cement project in Bacnotan, La Union, which I visited a few Weeks ago.

These accomplishments stand unchallenged. No member of the opposition has ever attempted to refute them, as they are irrefutable. One must have to be blind not to see them or to be systematically ignoring the march of events right under his nose.

Now may I ask: What have the confirmed detractors and accusers of this administration contributed meanwhile to our present recovery and stability besides increasing their personal wealth?

Here is their outstanding contribution: Where our innocent citizenry were victims of dissident elements armed and banded to murder the aged, the young, the sick, the poor, the defenseless, burning homes and hospitals, raping nurses, killing patients, our newly-plumed crusaders, ostentatiously came to defend the perpetrators of all these unqualified crimes in our courts. With a good deal of unction and piety, they announced they were only *de officio* attorneys. I know one of them, who would like to appear as the quintessence of rectitude and militancy against the ruthless destroyers of the peace and of life and property, surreptitiously solicited the court to name him attorney *de officio*, while another major associate leader of the opposition, Senator Jose P. Laurel, actually appeared for Amado Hernandez who was later convicted of sedition. Those who rose in rebellion in Batangas in 1950 pointed to now Senator Laurel as the one who induced that uprising and helped them.

These are the leaders of thought and action of the opposition; these are the leaders who do not blush to announce absolute responsibility for the action of puppets of their own creation that may serve the purpose of opening their road to power; these are the leaders who would make the people believe as the champions of their country's liberty.

In the heyday of the Japanese occupation when these leaders themselves were the instruments of domination, the people were not deceived. Is it possible, that our people today could be bamboozled to fall for the new deceit so blandly foisted upon them?

They have made a credo and profession of obstructionism, sowing distrust and antagonism. They have not been content with that. They have defied the urgent interests of their typhoon-stricken people, abetting hunger and disease among them, while they themselves maneuvered and manipulated for political advantage. Because the people affected were mostly of Nacionalista provinces, these leaders felt they could be immune to the people's distress and despair.

These leaders, obsessed with nothing but the ambition to capture Malacañan, would accuse the administration of robbing the people of their liberties. Who recommended the suspension of habeas corpus?

I have no excuse to offer for this measure to arrest the increasing aggression of armed dissidents. But I must state here that it was the then secretary of national defense, now the standard bearer of the opposition, now their paragon and symbol of honesty whiter than driven snow, who urged the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus.

It should interest you to know fellow countrymen, that when I was in the United States in 1951, or on my way to Spain returning to our own country, upon receipt of news of the death of Capadocia in Panay, I directed the then secretary of national defense that the writ's suspension be lifted in Panay. I do not remember his excuse for not acting accordingly. And up to his last day as such, he has not found occasion to recommend the lifting of the suspension of the writ in other provinces.

The leaders of the opposition continue to harp on this charge of robbing the people of their liberties. And yet today, they look to the inspiration of this "robbery" as no less than their only hope to pull them out of their empty period of obstructionism into the promised land of increased and new riches, created by this administration despite their obstructionism. They look to this man who won his spurs under the Liberal Party to take them out of their captivity and to cover up their stark, erratic, uncreative record of ultra-nationalism, foreign interventionism, pro-communism, and sheer opportunism.

Time does not permit further elaboration on the recent accusations against the Liberal Party and administration. There will be a more appropriate occasion to do so. To the opposition, their strength appears to rest on the power of slanderous repetition by professional drummers and tub thumpers. I refuse to deny our people sufficient intelligence to see through these elaborate tissues of illogic, inconsistency, and irresponsibility.

The plain and simple question is: Who are responsible for the present stable, peaceful, and prosperous state of the country? Certainly not the Nacionalistas. For what have the leaders of the opposition been doing? To indulge in creating ill-feeling, contempt, and hate against the administration for temporary political advantage. I don't know what kind of patriotism this is.

But they underestimate our people's wisdom and strength of character. Some can be fooled some of the time but never all the people all the time, as Lincoln once said. Our people know better. Their judgment is sane and sober. The accomplishments of this Administration are there solid and substantial. To attempt to make our people see and believe otherwise is to insult their intelligence and underestimate their simple discernment.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). The President's 54th monthly radio chat, April 15, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(2), 1377-1382.

Remarks of President Quirino in welcoming Swedish Minister Pripp

**Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
In welcoming Swedish Minister Pripp**

[Delivered on May 1, 1953]

President Quirino's remarks:

I am happy to welcome you as the envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of Sweden to the Philippines.

Please convey to Your August Sovereign, His Majesty King Gustaf Adolph VI, my appreciation of the assurances of his friendship and esteem which I heartily reciprocate.

I confidently look forward to the continued strengthening of the friendly and cordial relations between our two countries with your assumption of your new duties. While these relations from the point of view of commerce and trade have been especially mutually beneficial, I share your belief that they can be further developed and expanded to our mutual advantage and benefit. You can rest assured of my support in all efforts to bring this about.

I am also pleased to assure Your Excellency of the cooperation of my Government in all your other endeavors during your tour of duty in the Philippines to strengthen the ties that bind our two peoples in other fields.

It is my hope that you will find your stay in this country both pleasant and fruitful.

Swedish Minister Pripp's speech:

I am conveying to Your Excellency the assurances of friendship and esteem of my Sovereign, H. M. King Gustaf Adolph VI.

The relations between Sweden and the Philippines are happy and friendly. In spite of the long distance, trade and shipping is important. I have noticed with much satisfaction the interest for Sweden that exists in this country, and I am glad to say that this interest is reciprocal. I believe, however, that more could be done for the development of our mutual relations both in the cultural and the economic field.

I am happy to have been appointed Swedish Minister to your great and beautiful country, and it is my firm intention to devote my energy and ability to the furthering of the good relations between our two nations.

It is my sincere hope that I may count on the help of Your Excellency and Your Excellency's Government in the work that lies before me.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). Remarks of President Quirino in welcoming Swedish Minister Pripp. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(5), 1783.

Remarks of President Quirino to the Zamboanga teachers delegation

Extemporaneous Remarks of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines To the Zamboanga teachers delegation

[Delivered at the Malacañan Social Hall May 6, 1953]

My Fellow Teachers:

I have long wished to be able to talk more intimately with the people, of Mindanao in general, and of Zamboanga especially, because ever since I participated in the national elections—in 1946, 1949, and even in the elections of 1951 although I was not then a candidate, I have observed that we have always lost in Zamboanga City and province. And, perhaps the people of Zamboanga as well as the people of Mindanao, in general, do not still understand or appreciate the work being undertaken in their behalf and for their welfare.

The words *gratefulness* and *appreciation* have long been erased from our dictionary in the discussion of affairs affecting or involving the welfare of the people of Mindanao. This is a rare occasion, at least for me, to hear such words repeated right here in the midst of the City of Manila where, as you must have observed, or read, or heard over the radio, most of the words opposed to these sentiments have been passing from lip to lip among the citizenry of the metropolis. In place of *gratefulness*, *appreciation*, you would hear such words as *suspicion*, *hate*; attacks here, attacks there; derogatory remarks here, derogatory remarks there—all negative talk—nothing of that encouraging, inspiring, and elevating tone of language which is the language of people who are noble and more humane.

You have shown today that you don't belong to that class. We have not done much. Personally, I have not done much for Zamboanga and the whole island of Mindanao, as far as I am concerned, although we have a great number of huge plans of developing Mindanao, which presently I would outline to you for your own information and for you to relay to the folks at home, especially to the unbelievers, to the systematic detractors or hostile elements, to those who don't seem to appreciate humane feelings of people, to those who belong to a certain tribe in South Africa whose members, if you do them a favor or pay special attention and courtesy to them, never say thank you; they simply say do it again. You don't belong to that class and I am glad to hear you express sentiments of gratitude and appreciation because this is the time that you should give us encouragement, that you should give us something to stimulate our determination to push through our program of national action for the general benefit and welfare of our people.

Secretary Lorenzo has just mentioned several of those roads that are being constructed in order to foster better communications between Mindanao provinces and facilitate the movement of products as well as better communications among the inhabitants of that big island. There are four important roads; we call them development roads of Mindanao. A road is being built from Zamboanga City to Pagadian. There is another one being built from Malabu to Malanding, another from Cotabato to Davao, and still another from Davao to Agusan. All of them are now under construction. The Davao-Agusan road has just recently been advertised. I don't know who won the bid but all these roads are already started, being constructed, with money allotted. No less than P6 million worth of equipment has arrived from the United States chargeable to MSA funds now being distributed from the center of distribution in Davao City, and P4 million of the amount set aside from the counterpart fund under the PHILCUSA is fully allotted for development of the Mindanao roads.

Exclusively for Mindanao P14 million which has been made available to the whole Philippines is being given to Mindanao, and of the P6 million worth of equipment which has arrived, all is being distributed to Mindanao, although some other equipment has arrived in Manila for distribution to the provinces on the island of Luzon:

But Mindanao has had top priority. The huge program of road construction is criss-crossing the whole of Mindanao island in our efforts to connect coast to coast all the productive provinces of that big island. We also have a huge

program of industrialization for that region, such as the establishment of the hydroelectric plant in Lanao which will cost us P16 million; the fertilizer plant in Iligan and the steel mill established there, both of them to be inaugurated this year; as well as the steel mill to be inaugurated in September. And, in addition, there are several irrigation systems, some of them already finished and just waiting to be inaugurated, and the hydroelectric plant in Digos connected with the Davao electric plant, which is already finished.

With all these roads, irrigation systems, basic industrial plants such as hydroelectric plants and fertilizer plant and steel mill in Northern Mindanao, plus the development program which I have just mentioned, you could see what Mindanao would be. What an irony of fate is shown in this country. The administration was not supported by the island of Mindanao during the elections of 1946 and 1949—the Liberal Party lost the whole group—and yet when time come to distribute all the necessary aid, strengthen our economy and lay the foundations of a prosperous Philippines, we forgot the elections of 1946 and 1949 because ail of as realized that Mindanao must be developed, that Mindanao must be strengthened, that Mindanao is the source of our strength, national economy, and politics.
(Applause)

So this is the irony of fate. The region that did not see in the Liberal Party the determination to work for the welfare of the people of Mindanao is the first to receive the benefits of this administration. So, you are justified and it is a source of satisfaction to us that you express your gratitude not only for this already known benefit that you are going to derive from this administration but also for the signing of that bill which was the purpose ostensibly of your visit—the bill standardizing the salaries of teachers.

I want to tell you, my dear friends, that I don't want to derive major credit for the conversion of that bill into law. Of course, without my signature, the bill could not have been converted into law. But the initiative, the cooperation and vision that made possible the approval of this bill now converted into law did not all come from me but from my associates in the House of Representatives and the Senate. But I shall not derive false pride in this act because I know that you are convinced that my interest in the welfare of teachers is but natural for a man who has risen to the top echelon of the national government from the poor lot of a barrio school teacher of P12 monthly salary. *(Applause)*

I have not ceased to be a teacher. Everywhere I go, I have always tried to teach, but I now discover that other people would like to teach me, and teach me even to be honest, how to work hard, how to be patriotic, when I should be the one who should teach those who are not entitled to be my teachers, because I have been the one teaching them to be honest in their official conduct, and inspiring them to work hard in order to serve the interest of the people, so as to give them the opportunity to be strong and useful to the country. Now, they are going to teach me all those things. This is another irony of fate.

I appreciate, indeed, your coming here, because you have given me an opportunity to express myself. I want you to know when you go home, that all the efforts of this government have been directed to achieving those things the people are entitled to. Because of your special position, the great advantages that you offer to the nation for the development and strengthening of our Republic, your cooperation, henceforth, will be a source of inspiration, encouragement, and stimulation in our hearts to promote your welfare as well as the general welfare of our people.

Mindanao ought to give the unstinted support to the administration because this administration is pledged to make Mindanao no longer a liability to the nation—because we have spent millions and millions of pesos to pacify that whole region, we have spent millions and millions of pesos to train that region for political advancement, we have spent millions and millions of pesos to place the whole island of Mindanao on a level with the more cultured regions of the country. Now we should reap those great sacrifices of the national government, and you should give all your unstinted support to the national government because this administration wants to make you strong, to make you an asset—no longer a liability. You are going to lose that chance of your life if you don't do so, and in order that we may dovetail our interests, I want to say this: Help us and we will help you later. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). Extemporaneous remarks of President Quirino to the Zamboanga teachers delegation. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(5), 1786-1789.

55th monthly radio chat of President Quirino

**55th Monthly Radio Chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To his fellow countrymen**

[Delivered on May 15, 1953]

Fellow Countrymen:

Since I talked to you last over the radio four weeks ago, you have observed the political air about us rise in savage heat. This may have been merely a symphathetic reaction to our torrid season at its peak. Therefore, we may nurse the hope that, when the summer rains come, we may get some grateful refreshment to our shriveled sensibilities.

It all would appear to be a part of the working arrangements of-nature in which we have to accept what is distasteful along with the agreeable. In politics under a democracy, the situation looks similar and we have to learn to meet its hazards in order to enjoy its rewards.

This is not to say that we cannot do anything to mitigate either the cruel accidents of nature or the ruthless punishments of, a political struggle. Science and its application have done remarkably well to humanize natural calamities.

What I wish to bring home is the point that our people, as a whole and as private individual citizens, have a challenge to accept responsibility for the conduct of our public affairs and our public men.

I have made no secret, after due deliberation, of my decision to seek a fresh mandate from you to finish a job I have started and from where my distinguished predecessor left off. This decision, as I have indicated in a previous radio chat, came of a sober realization of the challenge of public sentiment to round off the contribution of this administration to the building of a durable national structure.

The opposition party, by the logic of its position, would naturally question the validity of such public sentiment, and that is why we have this periodic formal submission to the judgment of the popular will. A few in my own party may agree with the opposition that a change of leadership is due, mindful of the empty allure of the mere mention of change which is the stock-in-trade of ambitious kingmakers and their hapless victims. But of course that question will have to meet the test as well.

No leader under our system is above public accounting, and, gruelling as the ordeal may be, I am not the one to retreat from it. I know the risks, but I also know the positive accomplishments and the high-minded acknowledgments that justify my urge. I am grateful for a clear conscience and I have ample recollection of your generous intimations of confidence.

Mention of current discontent to lend basis for the suggestion of a change of leadership is a common electoral pastime. Now, discontent is a feature of living that has its wholesome, salutary aspects. The road of progress is paved with discontent; we are what we are today, a far cry from 1896, 1936, and 1946, free and independent with a respected place in the free world—because of that discontent.

There is the companion discontent of repeated frustration and inordinate ambition on the part, not of the general population but, of some individuals who feel called to serve but are not yet called, either because the time is not ripe

or because the qualifications are inadequate. This kind of discontent, with the aid of modern promotion techniques, may be magnified and pass on as popular discontent.

That such variety of discontent should be peddled and sold to a few susceptible elements of the Liberal Party who allow personal ambition in the guise of the public interest to confuse their own perspective, is one of those calculated risks of the democratic order.

Why don't we ask the laborer, whose minimum wage the administration has assured, and for whose lot's increasing betterment it is continually fighting?

Why don't we ask the enlisted man in the Army if he is discontented with his raise in compensation from P25 to P120 a month?

Why don't we ask the Telecommunications employees, the teachers, the nurses, the superintendents, and the rest of the personnel of the Department of Education, the justices of the peace, the district health officers, the fiscals, the engineers, and almost all the other provincial and city officials whose salaries have been standardized?

Why don't we ask the new merchants, the industrialists, and the thousands upon thousands of wage earners who have found new opportunities in the new factories and other establishments created all over the country, if they are discontented?

Why don't we ask the low-salaried employees who now occupy the thousands of low-cost houses the administration has built for them in Quezon City, in Pandacan, in Bago Bantay, and elsewhere, if they are discontented?

Why don't we ask the hundreds of thousands of settlers now accommodated in public lands producing the prime necessities for their consumption, if they are discontented?

Of course, they are not all satisfied. Human wants cannot all be met, for human desires are ever insatiable.

We have increased the income of the National Government from P1,800,000 in 1945 to P611 million in 1952. But we are not satisfied. We have increased the national wealth from four billion pesos in 1946 to 7 ½ billion in 1952. But we are not satisfied. We have increased, in population and production, in school enrollment, in Army strength, in political stability, and in national stature and prestige. But we are not satisfied. Who is? But we have done more than what was expected of us with all our handicaps.

How strange that those who were telling the whole world that this administration is a success and that we are a happy people should now, in one day of sudden political decision, tell us that there is general discontent in this country.

It is not surprising that discontent is represented and understood to be a world trend. Else how can the free world move forward? It does not follow that leadership should take on the unstable and capricious nature of spring fashions.

Nation-building under the stresses and pressures imposed by domestic and the world problems requires more substantial standards than the frivolous whims of a season inflated into solemn compulsions of fate by high-pressure salesmanship.

We have heard of the theory of the survival of the fittest. We know that to be more than a theory. The fact that nature and history provide frightening demonstrations of its actual operation has not deterred man as man to modify its ruthless application and to promote compassion and cooperation as means not only to survival but to fulfillment.

From the way some people talk today in relation to the contest for the popular mandate this November, and from the way others advocate measures to removed what are considered chronic evils, there is evident a malignant spirit that

could only be matched by the spirit behind the deceit, fanaticism, intolerance, and cruelty of Communism itself, which lives on the principle that the end justifies the means.

The presence of this vicious spirit is a most unhappy commentary on our tiniest fearful evidence of a measure of success with which Communism has corrupted its avowed enemies in a free community. What would appear as a cunning adoption of communist techniques of psychological warfare in order to combat Communism has seemed to hold its user captive. Communism may well be happy—if it is capable of being happy—to note the impression that its enemy so-called has succumbed to its vicious spirit and method.

To be sure, we must understand the tricks of the enemy to fight him better. But this should mean no unthinking descent into his cynicism, no complete abdication of the humane heritage of truth, decency, and charity by which mankind has advanced from the days of the beast.

A tragic and most dangerous phenomenon of this day is the highly intellectual machine that spouts with facility all the lofty principles, all the copybook virtues, all the accepted verities and acts on none of them. Communism has specialized at the production of such a machine, and it has never scrupled to utilize local, material whenever and wherever possible. That its influence is active in our midst is a fearful indication that all true lovers of true freedom and democracy in this country must constantly be on the alert to verify the station to which he is tuned in order to determine how much credence to give its smooth announcements.

You can have your voice count for the conduct of an election season that gives a chance for issues to be formulated, discussed, and understood on a level that should do justice to our claim as a civilized and Christian democracy.

You can raise your hand in protest against actions and statements that manifestly boost the very spirit of hate, bigotry, and fanatical intransigence which we seek to banish from our midst as the direct threat to our cherished way of life.

Every election season is great political education to the nation. The level of its results can rise no higher than the measure of intelligence and free participation our people put into it. I dare say our people will not be cowed by dire threats spread around by anyone who would anticipate to explain possible loss or defeat. I have enough faith in our free institutions to carry us through.

To conclude:

I have decided for the nomination and I shall get it.

I shall pull the administration and the party through with the program we have initiated and must fulfill to completion.

The record of this administration can stand any challenge. That record gives me enough resources to deal with any factors seeking to wreck it and to sacrifice the public welfare for partisan and personal ends.

This election can be conducted on the highest possible level in the best democratic tradition. You will help me do it.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). 55th monthly radio chat of President Quirino. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(5), 1792-1795.

56th Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino, June 15, 1953

**THE PRESIDENT'S FIFTY-SIXTH MONTHLY RADIO CHAT
JUNE 15, 1953**

Beloved Countrymen and Friends:

I am glad to be able to continue without interruption my monthly radio chat with you this evening. I have just had my usual bout with an ailment which prompted my decision to submit myself to a thorough general physical examination. For almost three weeks I was compelled to be in bed. My political opponents took advantage of the opportunity to make my illness a national issue, despite their so-called high level campaign standards, their wishes out-galloping their thoughts for office. I understand some are already preparing the line-up for the next cabinet. I am reminded of what Shakespeare made Julius Caesar to say, and I quote:

“A friend should bear his friend’s infirmities,
But Brutus makes mine greater than they are.”

But what is most unfortunate is that, during my period of confinement, I was hit hardest when my opponents thought and speculated I was already beyond hope of recovering. At such a time, when I could be really defenseless, I read in the newspapers what appeared to be my bitterest medicine, the charge which pictured me in the heat of their campaign all combined as a “danger to freedom,” “pernicious character,” “incompetent,” “inept,” “lazy.” These and similar other epithets were flung by former friends to whom this administration has given the best opportunities to win renown for themselves, friends who used to sing to it its highest praise for creating in this country democracy’s best show-window in Asia. And now that they aspire to the highest position, they cannot descend low enough to discredit the same administration and to vilify the one who has made it possible for, them to have their names associated with the national prestige we have won in the last half decade.

Some people have short memories, but these friends have particularly shorter sympathies. They forget the ordinary feeling of refinement in social relations when they concentrate their mind on their lust for power, as if this were the last call of democracy for them. However, the situation does not discourage me. On the contrary, personally it has stimulated my recovery and reinforced my faith in the goodness and sound judgment of our people to hope with full confidence of new victory.

A writer once said: “Whom the gods love, they first make him suffer.” That sentiment as derived from the experience of a profane age is not far in meaning from the old Ilocano proverb: “*Ti tao nga mairurumen, ni Apo Dios ti mangtaraken.*” (“Whom men ill-treat unjustly, God will take care of him.”)

So I know now why I have recovered. The Lord is with me. And I think that is why my faith is undiminished that I shall prevail over both calculated and chance obstructions that stand in the way of fuller dedication and service to my fellow citizens.

What has been accomplished in your service in the last seven years cannot be repealed by any amount of dishonest thinking and rhetoric. Whether it is acknowledged or not, it is there. Figures and facts do not lie. And the general feeling of contentment and good cheer among our people throughout the country cannot be concealed.

For, in the last analysis, this is your own concrete accomplishment: increased stability and steady enjoyment of your freedoms, insured vigor of your democratic institutions, expanding scale of activity for the basic needs of your health, education and security, and finally an all-round development of a productive economy that constitutes their positive base.

The government that provides and has been providing this climate and condition for all these is your government; it has been effective as you are effective. The measure of its work under the Liberal Party whose stewardship is the measure of your own efforts to rise, as you have risen, from the ruins of war, and to establish, as you have done, for

your country a respected place in the free world. Any effort to make you believe otherwise is to abuse your intelligence and mislead the unthinking. Any attempt to deny its reality is to dismiss the evidence of your own eyes and to discount your own honest share in the common accomplishment.

Fellow countrymen, I count, then, on your continuing understanding and support in completing our common task. Our goal is for a more prosperous and peaceful order dedicated to the well-being of the common man. This has been the central idea of the Liberal administration. You have measured up to its challenge in the past. I know you will continue to rise to it. Bear with me the trials to enable each and every Filipino to reach that goal, and I, on my part, shall bear every tribulation that assails the Chief of State to fulfill his assigned task, the weight of fading years notwithstanding.

The tried and tested and most mature experience in the public service will not only make the task for you and me easier, of fulfillment, but will insure a steady march to our goal. Thank you and good night. (*Applause*)

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

**Response of President Quirino to the speech of the Thai Minister on latter's presentation of his credential,
June 24, 1953**

**RESPONSE OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE SPEECH OF THE THAI MINISTER ON LATTER'S
PRESENTATION OF HIS CREDENTIAL, AT 11:30 A. M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1953**

Mr. Minister:

It gives me pleasure to welcome you as the new Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Your Gracious Sovereign, His Majesty the King of Thailand, to the Republic of the Philippines.

I deeply appreciate the kind greetings and good wishes of Your August Sovereign and I would take this opportunity to ask you, on behalf of the people of the Philippines and on my own, to convey, in turn to His Majesty our sincere hope for his continued good health and for the prosperity of the people of Thailand.

The Air Transport Agreement recently concluded between our two Governments will mean frequent intercourse between our peoples as well as serve to facilitate further a mutually beneficial cooperation between Thailand and the Philippines in the field of trade and commerce.

I note with deep interest Your Excellency's determination to dedicate yourself to the task of further strengthening the already close friendly relations that happily exists between our two nations and I wish to assure Your Excellency that in the performance of this task you will always be able to count on the full support and cordial assistance of my Government.

In closing, may I wish Your Excellency a very pleasant stay in this country and success in the fulfillment of your mission.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Response of President Quirino to the speech of the Italian Minister on latter's presentation of credentials

**Response
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To the speech of the Italian Minister on latter's presentation of credentials**

[Delivered on June 24, 1953]

Mr. Minister:

It affords me great pleasure to welcome you to the Philippines as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Italy.

There are ties, Mr. Minister, that bind your country and mine other than those that ordinarily link two friendly nations together. There is that feeling of kinship arising from a community of experience with destruction as a result of war and with the problems of reconstruction and rehabilitation that follow in its wake.

It is heartening to note that your Government continues to attach great value to the cordial relations that happily exists between our two countries, and that you will dedicate yourself to the improvement of these relations, especially in the commercial and cultural fields. Your distinguished predecessors and the representatives of the Philippines in your country have worked to achieve this end with beneficent results. The volume of trade has increased and cultural contacts between our two peoples have been enhanced. I am confident that your efforts in this direction will give added impetus to these worthwhile objectives, and you may rest assured of the support and cooperation of this Government and of my own in this task.

I would appreciate your conveying to His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Italy, my best wishes for his continued good health and to the great people of Italy my earnest desire for their continued prosperity and happiness.

May your stay with us be both pleasant and fruitful.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1953). Response of the President to the speech of the Italian Minister on latter's presentation of his credentials at 11 a. M., Wednesday, June 24, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(6), 2227-2228.

Remarks of Minister N. H. Ferdinando Niel of Italy on presenting his credentials to President Quirino

**Remarks
of
Minister N. H. Ferdinando Niel
Diplomatic Representative of Italy
On presenting his credentials to President Quirino**

[Delivered on June 24, 1953]

Mr. President:

In submitting to Your Excellency the credentials which His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Italy, has been pleased to issue for me in the capacity of His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of the Philippines, I feel greatly honored at having been appointed the *third diplomatic representative* of our country to this great Republic.

My Government has charged me to bear testimony to the great value that is attached to the good understanding and friendly relations existing between Italy and the Philippines, and I have been instructed to do everything in my power to improve always these relations and to strengthen the ties of friendship.

My greatest happiness in my long career in the Foreign Service of my Government is to be able to serve in your country which is blessed by kind Providence with fertile valleys, rich mineral resources, and incomparable seas and which in God's indefinite wisdom has peopled with progressive, self-reliant, and contented citizens.

I entertain the hope that while fulfilling satisfactorily the trust imposed upon me with the kind assistance of Your Excellency and counting also upon the friendly support of the Philippine Government, I shall be able to develop to its maximum the Italo-Filipino trade and cultural relations which I am happy to report has been the main subject of our various conferences with the worthy Representative of Your Excellency in my country. Prior to my departure from Italy, the Philippine Charge d'Affaires and myself had familiarized ourselves with the new economic structure of Italy which is now in a position to compete with the most industrialized countries. He pointed out to me that the Philippines can supply some very important materials such as copra, coconut oil, abaca, lumber, minerals, and other items which are vital to Italy's industries.

With sincere rejoice and great satisfaction, I avail myself of this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Government of Italy, the cordial wishes for the prosperity and happiness of Your Excellency and the Government and people of the Philippines.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Ferdinando Niel, N. H. (1953). Remarks of Minister N. H. Ferdinando Niel of Italy on presenting his credentials to the President at 11:00 a. m., Wednesday, June 24, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(6), 2227-2228

Remarks of Minister Nai Chitli Sucharitakul of Thailand on presenting his credentials to President Quirino

**Remarks
of
Minister Nai Chitli Sucharitakul
Diplomatic Representative of Thailand
On presenting his credentials to President Quirino**

[Delivered on June 24, 1953]

Mr. President:

I have the honour of presenting to Your Excellency the Letters of Recall of my predecessor, His Excellency Luang Bhadravadi and of presenting Letters of Credence by which His Majesty the King, my Gracious. Sovereign, has been pleased to accredit me as His Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of the Philippines.

I have the honour and pleasure of conveying to Your Excellency the greetings and good wishes of His Majesty for Your Excellency's personal welfare as well as for the prosperity of the Philippine Nation.

It is for me personally a signal honour to have been selected for this high post and I derive great satisfaction from the knowledge that my present appointment is to serve in this great Republic for which Thailand entertains a genuine feeling of friendship.

I have no doubt that the Air Service Agreement so recently concluded between our two countries will result in an ever increasing intercourse between our peoples.

For the rest, I beg to assure Your Excellency that, on my part, I shall dedicate myself to the task of maintaining and strengthening the ties of friendly relations which so happily exist between our two nations. I am confident that in this I shall receive the support and assistance of the Philippine Government.

Source: **Office of the Solicitor General Library**

Sucharitakul, N. C. (1953). Remarks of Minister Nai Chitli Sucharitakul of Thailand on presenting his credentials to President Quirino at 11:30 a. m., Wednesday, June 24, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(6), 2229.

Fifty-Seventh Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino, July 15, 1953

**Fifty-Seventh Monthly Radio Chat
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines**

[Tape-recorded at John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland, and flown to San Francisco, California, where it was beamed to Manila Broadcasting Company, July 15, 1953]

My Beloved Fellow Countrymen:

This is not the first time that I chat with you by radio from a foreign land. Perhaps there is more anxiety and excitement now. At least I am moved by a grateful feeling of emotion, touched by the general desire of early recovery from friends and sympathizers from the homeland and abroad. All your kindness and thoughtfulness have helped me immensely to draw on myself the strength necessary to sustain me in the face of my illness. Your affectionate greetings will all remain in my heart; your prayers I will answer with prayers.

While I heartily rejoice over the “prospect of regained health—thanks to the Good Lord and my attending physicians—nothing gives me real pleasure at this moment than the knowledge that, during the period I have been away from our shores and at a time critical to my own life, I have not received any report of any event at home that would have marred the normal functioning of the government, or disturbed the tranquility of the nation.

Despite the turmoil of partisan politics raging at home when I left our shores, I am gratified to observe from afar the innate good sense of our people not to allow partisan conflicts to stir up popular hatred nor shake their loyalty to established institutions. Their respect for law and obedience to authority are enviable qualities. The agitator or purveyor of bad dreams cannot easily sweep them off their feet. Neither can any prophet of discontent or disaster readily sway them with weeping saliloquies or messianic pronouncements. They are not moved by emotions from whims and fancied wrongs and grievances. They are showing great political intelligence and broad appreciation of human values, inspired more by the great purpose to survive and advance than to listen to calls of dissention and disunity.

Upon my arrival in the United States, it has concerned me a great deal to learn of gross misrepresentations here of Philippine conditions. We have had to grapple with this problem in the past, when we were a dependency of the United States, but now that we are a republic we cannot afford to let these misrepresentations continue and retain our self-respect. It grieves me especially to know that this kind of publicity has been spread by words of mouth from men who, receiving no sympathy at home, desire to create sympathy somewhere, else.

To invite foreign sympathy on the basis of internal disputes or differences, whatever these might be, is to invite direct foreign interference and intervention. We must solve our own problems, and solve them in the best way we can, and not appear before others volubly unworthy of the independence that we enjoy.

Let my message therefore be for everyone to keep his own composure and maintain national prudence. Arguing with respect and restraint, it will be a lot easier for us all to achieve unity and understanding when the fight is over—that unity and understanding which every nation needs and without which no people can exist no matter how powerful their government may be.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1953). The President’s 57th Monthly Radio Chat. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(7), 2736-2737.

57th monthly radio chat of President Quirino, August 15, 1953

THE PRESIDENT'S 57TH MONTHLY RADIO CHAT, AUGUST 15, 1953

My Beloved Countrymen:

I am speaking to you on the event of my release from the Johns Hopkins Hospital. My confinement in this kind of institution this time has been prolonged, gruelling, precarious, most risky, to say the least. All the physical tests and examinations to which I have been submitted involved a corresponding test of all the facets of human character in me.

That I have gone through the whole ordeal, acquiring new vigor and lease of life, thanks to the Almighty, has produced in me a deeper sense of devotion to my country and a greater feeling of dedication to the permanent interests of my people, friends and foes alike. I deplore that I have caused them mixed concern regarding my fate, some silently calculating on a fatal eventuality.

I am now preparing for my return home. I am confident there would be nothing to worry about my physical condition while I concentrate fully from now on my attention to my official duties. Even now, as I prepare homeward, I am gratified to learn that during my absence from the country the normal functions of government proceed in a most steady and progressive manner. This shows the stability of our established institutions and the constructive response of our people to keep apace with our new found path to progress and prosperity.

I am most anxious to be back home. I shall not tarry longer than is necessary for me to put on the strength that I lost during my protracted illness. At the same time this gives me an opportunity to study the solution of many problems pending settlement between the Philippines and the United States arising from our long standing special relations, in peace and in war.

I have set my heart, even in the midst of my illness, to have these matters earnestly studied and settled. We need their satisfactory solution in order to enable us to concentrate on our program of stabilizing and strengthening our economic and political position.

I am confident that I am now in a position to make more effective the measures adopted to insure our goal. I have determined to dedicate this new vigor—this new life—with unswerving purpose and increased devotion to the welfare of our country and our people to whom I have unselfishly and freely given of myself in my long years of public service.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Fifty-Ninth Monthly Radio Chat of President Quirino, September 1953

Fifty-Ninth Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Released on September, 1953]

My Fellow Countrymen:

I am grateful to Divine Providence that I am back in your midst restored in body and spirit to carry on with my duties. I know how much you have prayed for me. I have been helped beyond measure.

The interest that you have taken in my state of health was most natural, not to say legitimate. I would be the last to wish to keep you in the dark as to how I was, considering that the welfare no less of the nation was involved.

The crisis that I went through and survived in the hospital was very grave indeed. The speculations that arose from it were inevitable. I should wish to be no judge of the character and purpose of many of the speculations however seemingly wanting they were in charity.

Through it all—crisis and speculations—I had a faith that did not waver. It was faith in the wisdom of God that orders the destiny of individuals and of nations. I fought with a will under that faith, and God and your prayers sustained me in the fight. That I am with you today strengthens my conviction that I can still serve you and complete my work to a point that promises some durable value to our time.

If there is vanity in that conviction, I ask you to concede it to one who has devoted the best of his life to public service and seeks ultimate reward in seeing his job completed within the limited time that would be left to him by our fundamental law.

It has been suggested that I retire and rest by some well wishers, more insistently by leaders of the opposition. In order to press the latter's argument, they have subjected this administration under steady, savage attack. In doing so; they themselves have imposed upon me no alternative but defend and preserve the positive contributions it has made to our people's lasting benefit and welfare.

For me to retreat now is to expose the progress made under our program of development, to the caprices of a new and different leadership that offers no program of its own and shows no disposition nor capacity to evolve one. This it seems to me, is to be disloyal to the mass of our people who have made our progress possible and are now getting to enjoy its increasing and expanding benefits.

You have been hearing lately considerable talk about the sacrifices some people profess to be making or are asked to make ostensibly in the interest of the common welfare. Nothing seems too precious to sacrifice—honor, dignity, principles, truth itself.

Now, why may I not be permitted to offer my own sacrifice? Why may I not give the last ounce of my energy and risk my very life—which some systematically would like our people to believe hangs on a slender thread—to see the development program of this administration through to a happy completion? Surely, this is not too much to ask for of a public servant who requires the sacrifices of no decent principle from anyone in order to follow a positive goal for his people. The new lease on life that the Lord has granted me, how else could I interpret it; what other meaning could I give it, but an added offering at the altar of public good and the welfare of my fellow men?

Opposition critics see this as an unfillable thirst for power. They do not see, or do not want us to see, that by their frantic and unholy combinations, not unmixed with hate and macabre plans, they are exhibiting an unquenchable

thirst for power, no less. There is nothing necessarily evil in power. What is to be feared is the dubious uses made of it. And if the arbitrary way the leaders of the opposition use it today in imposing their will on their rank and file without previous consultation is any indication at all, the nation has reason to be apprehensive, indeed. And what about the violence they have employed in several instances to impose party discipline and the threat of bloodshed in case things do not turn out the way they expect in the coming elections?

It is to be expected that there will continue to be attempts in certain quarters, inspired by political inadequacy, to create confusion and intensify public uneasiness. Such attempts are easily spotted and can be identified for what they are and propose to affect. But appropriate measures are available to prevent them from getting out of hand.

I may be weak in body still. But not the Liberal administration cleansed of those elements that have provoked virulent opposition attacks and which have now been absorbed by the opposition itself.

I count on our organs of information and opinion and on the collective wisdom of our citizenry to enable us to sustain the degree of self-restraint and discernment compatible with our background in, and experience with, democratic living. With their assistance and cooperation, we are prepared to face the calculated risks of democracy and we can confound those who have reservations on our ability to steer our own ship of state.

Meantime, even if we have an election on our hands, our work must go on just the same. Care is being taken that we continue to have tranquillity of mind as we go about the business of daily living and, in addition, mulling over our probable choices, for decision in November.

It speaks fairly of the vigor of our democracy to anticipate a goodly measure of excitement in connection with the national election. Its normal measure, however, has to be maintained in an atmosphere consistent with citizen interest and the responsible exercise of freedom that has been our experience through the years.

We can all contribute to this end. We can keep our composure whatever the temptation. We can give free play to the exercise of our good and practical sense. We can insist on a calm, honest consideration of facts brought to our attention.

We have a joint responsibility, I, as the captain, and you, my fellow citizens, as the crew. By your steadiness of hand and firmness of purpose, you and I can show that we have the unity and the discipline to weather every and any storm. The problem that I present is our great opportunity to achieve a common purpose of peace, freedom, and abundance.

During the last five years I have steered the ship of state with unfaltering hands, and, with you, we have progressively and steadily advanced towards our goal. In the midst of the still troubled sea and in the face of an unpredictable development immediately ahead, I ask you to consider seriously, for the sake of our children, in whose hands you entrust the wheel. God give us the light to guide our conscience in the hour of decision!

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1953). The President's 59th Monthly Radio Chat. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(9), 3832-3834.

Extemporaneous remarks President Quirino at the inauguration of the Maria Cristina Hydroelectric and Fertilizer Plants

**Extemporaneous Remarks
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
At the inauguration of the Maria Cristina Hydroelectric and Fertilizer Plants**

[Delivered in Iligan, Lanao, October 4, 1953]

Fellow Countrymen:

At long last, a centuries old dream has been realized today. For the past five centuries or from the Spanish to the American regime, and from the Japanese to the Commonwealth regime, we have been confronted with problems of administration.

It was not only a dream. Mindanao has been both a dream and a problem to all the administrations. It has fallen to my lot to witness the realization of the first and the solution of the second.

Heretofore, Mindanao has been principally a military or peace and order problem. From the Spanish time to two or three years ago, there had been encounters in the countrysides of Mindanao and elsewhere in the island between outlaws and the forces of the government that wanted to maintain peace and order so that we could concentrate our attention on the positive solution of the so-called Mindanao problem. The problem is now solved. Of course, there are still small marauding bands here and there, but they no longer constitute a major problem.

It is principally the economic problem that has occupied the mind of our administration and that problem, too, is being solved with the fulfillment of a dream of tranquility and security. So today, my friends, I made efforts to join you in this beautiful spot surrounded by the beauties of nature and inaugurate the great plant that generates the necessary electric power with which to initiate our program of industrialization in Mindanao. This great energy and power will begin the electrification of the whole island of Mindanao.

In 1947, in an effort to establish the diplomatic relations between this new republic and other countries, I had the privilege as Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Vice-President of making a world tour in order to observe how other countries were following the program of readjustment after the last world war.

I spent almost one week in Switzerland observing how that small, independent, democratic country was coping with its problems. I noticed that the Swiss people do not rely on their own resources alone. They have to depend upon foreign materials in order to make their country prosperous, economically stable and peaceful. Their only capital is their brains and brawns and the waterfalls. The whole material for their factories and industries come from across their borders.

The Philippines is fortunate. It has all the brains, all the brawns, all the waterfalls, all the determination to make this country strong and stable, so that we can endure and live as sovereign and independent people, enjoying the fruits of peace in happiness and plenty. *(Applause)*

I saw in Switzerland how the water is drained out to move the factories, how such factories convert even manufactured articles from other countries into finer products. The Philippines is not only rich in resources but also in intellect, in foresight, and in energy to carry on the program that is ours today to execute.

Our ambitious program of total economic mobilization has been derided, despised, trampled upon, by those envious members of the opposition who call me not total economic mobilizer but *economic tontolizer*. I would like to invite

the author of that term to come out now and swallow his words in the midst of this energy and power that will give eternal happiness to the people of Mindanao. *(Applause)*

Branch industries, industries that will branch out from this center of power and energy, will henceforth be rising like mushrooms. In live years, I invite you to come back to Iligan and see as I see in my mind's eye perfectly beautiful shipping facilities and factories that will arise for the people of Mindanao. *(Applause)*

I consider it one of the greatest moments of my life to be able to come here and inaugurate with you this hydroelectric plant. It is not so much personal pride that I derive from it as the feeling that we have succeeded in showing to the world that we have the vision, the genius, the determination, and the brain and brawn to carry on an independent life, relying on our own resources and on our own intellectual capacity.

There were days when we were denied our economic independence, when we had to adopt a policy of cooperation in compliance with the wishes of the United States, and had to fight for our political independence because it was feared or believed that we did not have the capacity to run our government. Fortunately those days have long passed. In less than seven years we have been able to show to the whole world that we are not only politically capable of running our own government but are capable of establishing a new nation as the youngest republic in the Orient. *(Applause)*

Not long ago, we could hardly get a loan from the world bank with which to exploit the Agus river waterpower. Experts from Canada, the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, and other countries to which we applied for aid have confirmed our assertion that the project we are inaugurating today is worth the risk of a ₱16 million loan, but they doubted our ability to exploit it economically.

Today, with our own native genius, directed by no less than a young engineer, Mr. Filemon Rodriguez, we have succeeded in proving to the world that, given the chance, the Philippines can develop and exploit any project. Thus we are not only inaugurating this hydroelectric plant, but we are also inaugurating a new era in our history, an era of industrialization, and an era of conviction that, given the opportunity, the Filipino intellect is capable of developing to the fullest extent the resources of our own country. *(Applause)*

I shall not dwell long on the importance of this factory. I can only remind you that your government, your administration, has not slept on its job but has mapped out a program of national activities. We began to institute the program after two or three years of planning, and we are now entering upon the period of completion of these projects which are necessary to insure our happiness and economic stability. What the nation needs today are not the so-called "*politicastros de caña nipa*" in the words of Doctor Tavera, not men who in the streets, in the barbershops, in the market places, sing hymns to democracy, to liberty and freedom, using nothing but words, words, words, but men who do things.

This administration has presented to you deeds, deeds, deeds. From one end of the country in the north to the other in the south, and through the length and breadth of this archipelago, you will find indications, landmarks of this administration, in its desire to develop the country and complete its serious program of economic stability and internal security.

I shall not mention the different public works which we have constructed. I shall not mention the ability with which we have rehabilitated our country. I shall only mention new ones, those we could not follow during past administrations.

Do you remember that ever since the establishment of our republic our government has been confronted with the recurrent problem of rice crisis? Where is the rice crisis now? Is there any rice crisis? Do you remember that ever since we established here the public school system, we have been faced with the problem of accommodating our school children? We used to have a yearly school crisis. What is the school crisis today?

Do you remember that there was a great problem of peace and order posed first by the colorums, later by the Sakdals, and then by the dissident elements, the Hukbalahaps? Where are they now? They are all suppressed, and if

they were not suppressed they would come out from their hide-outs and face the forces of the government. This government, I want to tell you now, is strong and can not be threatened, cowed, or intimidated by anybody in this country. (*Applause*)

Those who talk of organizing a revolution can go on talking and plotting, because as long as I am here, as long as we have the armed forces at our command, I will not allow or tolerate even a threat of revolution from now on. (*Applause*) Why have they gone across the seas, ten thousand miles away, and asked America to come and help us conduct an election in order to elect the so-called candidate of the American people or American government as announced by an American correspondent after analyzing the political situation here? Are we going to allow a foreign power to come again and wrest that protection of our rights from our hands which we are developing for the growing dignity and happiness of our people? No. . . So long as I am here, I want to tell you that I will not allow any foreign troops to trample again the soil that belongs to us. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). Extemporaneous remarks of the President at the inauguration of the Maria Cristina Hydroelectric and Fertilizer Plants at Iligan, Lanao, October 4, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(10), 4280-4283.

Sixtieth monthly radio chat of President Quirino

Sixtieth Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Delivered on October 15, 1953]

My Fellow Countrymen:

In view of the impending elections, I propose to limit my theme this evening to what I consider has become the basic issue before the country; namely, prosperity and sovereignty.

In the midst of the confusion created by the many minor controversial questions heretofore presented, we find in this issue the essence of the current political struggle. The electorate deserves relief from the rubbish or from the idle talk or from the mutual recriminations produced by the desperation of some coalesced groups.

The simple and naked fact is that the opposition groups have not as yet presented to the electorate anything to help create a wholesome public opinion, positive in character and national in scope. They have offered nothing constructive, enlightening, or ennobling—nothing to raise the morale of our people or build a true national spirit.

Their plans? They are nothing but plots. Their language spells violence; their intention is to uproot; their ambition is to pull down and destroy. Unable to formulate a creative program of national action, they could only plot. Hence, their platform is nothing but “platform.”

The question before the electorate and our people is: Which party, which leadership, can better insure the continued prosperity and happiness of our people and the security of our nation, internally and externally? That is the question, pure and simple.

Confessing lack of reliance on their ability and experience to secure the leadership of this nation by themselves they deem it expedient to resort to appealing to a foreign power to exercise sovereign prerogatives in purely domestic affairs in the guise of insuring democratic processes. What nefarious plans they have of imputing frauds and terrorism to the administration to cover lip their unpatriotic motives and designs.

The plot has long been studied since their defeat in 1949. Incapable of standing on their own feet and following their own sanctimonious appeals for free and untrammelled elections, they have sought to implement their ugly designs by enticing some members of the party in power to execute for them their macabre plans.

But the people are not asleep. And they are not blind either. They can judge by the conduct of these neo-patriots—their movements, their words, and their past record—the unholy designs that are guiding them in the present campaign.

Who is terrorizing our people? Who has always spoken of violence, of meeting force with force, of bloodshed or of revolution? Not anyone in our camp, but almost everyone in the opposite camp.

Sometime in 1918 I was living in a modest bungalow at the corner of Vermont and Indiana streets in Malate. At its porch I was reading a newspaper one evening between seven and eight, when, all of a sudden, I heard a woman shrieking at the top of her voice, “thief, thief, thief!” I dropped down the newspaper, rushed out into the street and saw an American woman pursuing a man who also was crying “thief, thief, thief.” A good many in the vicinity joined us in the chase. The pursued man finally took refuge in a garage at the corner of Taft Avenue, the former residence of Don Jaime de Veyra. We had to wait for a police officer to break through the garage, fearing that the

person pursued was armed. But when the police officer got to where this man was hiding, he started afresh shouting aloud, "thief, thief, thief," with the handbag that he snatched from the woman still in his hands.

This incident reminds us of those who cry loud now of election frauds, of terrorism. They want to make the people believe that they are going to be the victims of administration attempts to commit frauds and terrorism, while they themselves plot the frauds and terrorism they now impute to the administration. In fact, they have recently announced elaborate plans of operation with the aid of experts of this sort of thing.

My countrymen, beware lest it be too late to avoid the repetition of what had happened in Batangas after the elections of 1949, when the country was startled by a revolt instigated by the opposition. Your memory is not so short. This is not the only danger that we should guard against. We should watch against the campaign to smear and discredit the government. The plot is a self-admission of political immaturity, or what I said the other day—a recurrence of the propensity for puppetry.

And cornered red-handed with the treasonous proposal of foreign intervention in their desperate snatch at power, they are now trying to ward off the anger of an outraged nation by charging the administration with running a stupid hate-American drive at which they have been past masters as original authors and practitioners. In this regard your memory is not so short either.

The character and strength of this government, I assure you, can guarantee to our people the full benefit of democratic processes without fear of internal disorder. I am sure we can cope with any situation. Our Republic has won the world's respect because of our exemplary conduct in observing faithfully the democratic tradition.

Official Washington has already seen fit to announce, and the authorized representatives of the United States Government in a recent visit here have so affirmed, that America has no desire, let alone any right, to intervene in our purely domestic affairs. The choice of men to lead this nation is purely our own concern. And yet those who now conjure the bugaboo of fraud and terrorism to justify their invitation for America to come and supervise our elections continue giving the impression that America and the American people and government have a candidate here. Not me.

Whom are they fooling or what is their real purpose? Do they intend to threaten or intimidate their own people, or curry favor with the country against which they have turned their backs in our most critical hour? They say that "American intervention is the last remedy against complete destruction of democracy in this country." Do they understand the full meaning of that? Do they want American soldiers to be guarding our precincts or American troops to be stationed on every street corner to scare the people and impose foreign authority under our very nose as a sovereign people? Do they want supervision of the Electoral Commission by their representatives? In international law, intervention is: "The interference of a state in the affairs of another state for the purpose of compelling it to do or forbear doing certain acts or of maintaining or altering the actual condition of its domestic affairs irrespective of its will. Intervention is sometimes by a written notice to the country intended to be coerced or by an international congress or conference, *but coercion actual or intended is essential to constitute an act of intervention, and the term is usually understood as importing an armed interference*"

Thus, the mere suggestion of foreign armed interference in one's own country is in itself a treasonable act.

I, therefore, charge the opposition of treasonable act in inviting American intervention in our purely domestic affairs in their attempt to court foreign rule simply to win an election. In whose favor? God forbid that they will succeed. Shall history repeat itself in our much humiliated land of yore? Who have already been defending people accused of treason and subversion in our courts? Are we going to allow them now to intimidate our people even in the name of democracy?

I know that our good people now enjoying liberty after centuries of struggle and seeing prosperity and happiness in increasing measure throughout the archipelago, will stand by me, I am sure, to resist every attempt to despoil the fruits of their labors and sacrifices and those of their forefathers at this hour.

But why give importance to negative thoughts that only becloud the real issue of the day? We are at peace with our own people. And we are actually concentrating on our economic development. The whole country is abustle for total economic mobilization. Centuries of armed conflict in our struggle for freedom have convinced us that in order to survive we must henceforth develop and build our nation on positive, concrete foundation. We cannot continue building this nation when we are solely moved by feelings of revenge or bitterness. Negative thoughts never build.

So, rather than engender ill-feeling, incite violence, and inspire suicidal attempts that will only divide and destroy this nation, I invite you to think calmly and dispassionately on the real fundamental issues on which to base our judgment when the times comes, November 10 of this year.

I repeat, the fundamental question is: Which party or group aspiring to hold the reins of government in the next four years should guide the destiny of this nation—that which in seven years has raised this nation, from the ruins of war, elevated the morale of the nation and secured our economic, social, and political stability and its internal and external security, or that which has done nothing but to plot force and violence, which in the end would revert us to a colonial status?

My fellow countrymen, your answer on November 10 will determine whether or not we have learned the lessons of nation-building or whether or not we can keep for ourselves and posterity the liberty which we won under untold sacrifices. Honesty in any critical moment of decision must have a start in our being honest individually with ourselves and our conscience. We need now that racial virtue which we gloriously inherited from our forbears to conserve our gains and move forward to greater plenty and peace. We have to safeguard our sovereignty and maintain the character and dignity of the Filipino people. I thank you and. good night. (*Applause*)

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). The President's 60th monthly radio chat, October 15, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(10), 4283-4286.

Letter of President Quirino on Archbishops playing politics

**Letter
of
His Excellency Elpidio Quirino
President of the Philippines
To Archbishop Vagnozzi on
Archbishops playing politics**

[Delivered on November 9, 1953]

His
Apostolic
1114 Taft Avenue, Manila

Excellency,

Mons.

Egidio

Vagnozzi
Nuncio

Dear Mons. Vagnozzi:

Just for your information and for any possible action you may wish to take, I am quoting below some of the messages I have thus far received from Bohol:

From Senator Clarin: "PLEASE CONTACT PAPAL NUNCIO SUGGESTING THAT OUR BISHOP TAGBILARAN RECALL IMMEDIATELY HIS ORDER TO ALL PRIESTS TO VOTE MAGSAYSAY STOP BISHOP MASCARIÑAS AS ATTITUDE CAUSING GENERAL INDIGNATION BOHOL."

From Congressman Clarin: "UPON BISHOP'S ORDER PRIESTS READ CIRCULAR IN ALL MASSES TODAY (SUNDAY) THAT MAGSAYSAY AND, NACIONALISTAS ARE CATHOLIC CANDIDATES STOP PEOPLE WHO KNOW YOUR HELP TO CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL CONDEMN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY'S ACTION BUT WE DOUBT RESULT BECAUSE OF THE CHURCH'S INFLUENCE SOMETHING MAY HAPPEN."

From Atty. Cruz Ranario of Jagna: "PRIEST THIRD DISTRICT BOHOL OPENLY CAMPAIGNING AGAINST HIS EXCELLENCY"

From Atty. Bullecer of Tagbilaran: "PARISH PRIEST DUERO BOHOL URGED PEOPLE TO VOTE FOR MAGSAYSAY TICKET AND ATTACKED YOU AT THE PULPIT AND OTHER LIBERAL CANDIDATES."

You will agree with me that all this runs counter to what His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII proclaimed as quoted by Archbishop Rufino Santos in his message to all Filipino Catholics published in the metropolitan dailies this morning: "The church resolutely refuses, prompted alike by right and by duty, to link herself to any mere party, and to subject "herself to the fleeting exigencies of politics."

Amplifying this Papal pronouncement, Archbishop Santos said most wisely: "The church is interested not in parties but in morals; not in factions, but in principles; and not in politics, but in religion.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1953). President Quirino calls Vagnozzi's attention to Archbishops playing politics, November 9, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(11), 4811-4812.

Sixty-first monthly radio chat of President Quirino

Sixty-first Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Delivered on November 15, 1953]

Beloved Countrymen:

Tomorrow, as you may know, is my 63rd birthday. I thank God that it finds me at peace with myself and with the world. I have not ceased to wonder at the grace that has restored me to health. It is a real joy to be able to close my active career in public service in possession of good health and a tranquil spirit, despite the gruelling storms and the rigors of a crowded official life in recent months.

The task of guiding the nation has never been simple and easy especially during the formative period of a new democracy. It demands a high sense of dedication as well as individual and national discipline.

During the last few years of my administration, the party in power has been faced with great difficulties because of political and partisan intemperance. We have been constantly elections-conscious.

Now that the last elections, after one of the most hard-fought political battles in our history, are over, it becomes evident that our duty, everybody's duty, is to concentrate our attention to constructive pursuits.

A new administration will need all possible cooperation from all elements to see that, its highest motives are appreciated and its plans understood and executed in the interest of the nation. Political temperance is imperative for real constructive work. This is the voice of experience, especially mine.

I have always felt that we have built here a working democracy.

I have accepted the nomination for reelection if only to show under my responsibility the vigor of that democracy.

My greatest satisfaction is that Philippine democracy has been completely vindicated.

The conduct of the last elections has strengthened my conviction that we can secure and protect our national well-being without the interference of anybody in the exercise of our right of suffrage as a purely domestic affair.

I have every reason to hope that our people will continue to be jealous of the prerogatives and responsibilities sovereignty and independence.

It is my feeling that we have laid the foundations well. It can sometimes happen that, by a fluke of fate, work however solid, may be destroyed. I am confident that we shall know how to conserve our gains and continue to build firmly on them.

Nation-building is a continuing process. Humbly and in all conscience, I have done my best to contribute my share. I shall not endeavor to press for proper evaluation at this moment of our history. For what should interest us all is vigilance to guard against disillusionment in our most cherished hopes and aspirations. After all, we have only one land to love and protect and one honor to preserve as a people.

Source: University of the Philippines, College of Law Library

Quirino, E. (1953). The President's 61st monthly radio chat, November 15, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(11), 4813-4814.

Sixty-second and last monthly radio chat of President Quirino

Sixty-second and Last Monthly Radio Chat of His Excellency Elpidio Quirino President of the Philippines

[Delivered on December 15, 1953]

My Fellow Countrymen:

Sixty-two months ago I inaugurated this monthly radio chat with you. I was inspired by the desire to give a periodic account of important developments under my stewardship of the affair of the nation. I looked upon it as an opportunity to express my views and reactions on current issues and problems occupying the attention of our people both here and abroad, I have not missed a single month to chat with you under any circumstance or state of health wherever I found myself in our own country or on foreign soil. As I am about to relinquish my office, this is, therefore, my last monthly radio chat with you; So I now bid the nation Godspeed.

It is in our democratic process to effect a periodic and orderly revision of stewardship according to the need and spirit of the times. We are proud that our nation has the freedom and vigor to sustain this process. And our readiness to accept the popular verdict in a wholesome cooperative spirit which can best be inspired by a high sense of civic duty and mutual respect strengthens the national character.

In the burst of faith with which the new administration is poised to start, we may take some precaution with the thought that the millenium is at the next corner. It is still true that Rome was not built in a day, however much modern science can help telescope human progress. It is still true that, in the perspective of the Good Book, a thousand years are as one day. And however much we belittle the past to exaggerate the future or brighten the past to dim the future, or, worse still, damn the past as an excuse for the failure of the future, we can still do with the residium of wisdom patiently to be gathered from what has gone before.

It was the task of the administration now drawing to a close to restore a nation from the shambles of a world war, laying out at the same time the broad foundations on which a lasting superstructure must rest. It is unwitting tribute to the vision and energy with which this task was accomplished that our people are now at the crest of a new strength and confidence in facing our nation's future. This administration is handing on a heritage of positive facts, not of chronic fears.

That it has charged the national spirit with the buoyancy and cowage of youth is but a manifestation of the people's restlessness and eagerness to take bold measures calculated to cope with age-old problems. Thus, the very scope of national recovery in eight years under its direction has generated a wholesome, youthful impatience that will do well, however, to reckon with popular habits, inertia, and capability at a given time.

Progress achieves lasting value and vigor when it comes of vision, energy, and care and of a people's moral and material readiness for it. Their welfare is not a gift from any one; it is the painstaking work of everybody. There is no miracle comparable to the creation of honest labor, human or heavenly.

I feel that what we have done in reestablishing peace and order, in restoring farms and opening new ones to production, in giving land to the landless and homes to the homeless, in raising food and purchasing power to sufficiency levels, in bolstering and balancing government finances, in creating the sinews of industrialization, in preparing for our external security and in facing up to a positive role in the free world against the threat of communism—all this, I say, in so far as we have counted with the cooperation of our people in understanding, labor, and sacrifice, has given our successor a broad base on which to proceed to farther and greater goals.

We are not anchored nor must we live on our past. But we have a native proverb to the effect that nobody gets anywhere who fails to recognize what and where he came from. This is a simple but sharp affirmation of the ageless validity of the principle of continuity.

This must hold true for our young Republic to which we all belong and which belongs to us all. We come this way but once; so is our privilege to give our share in strengthening it for ourselves as for our posterity. We, build on what has been accomplished. We work with only what materials we have. False pride in initiative is not spoken of the patriotic soul. And as we proceed, it is important that we do not lose a healthy sense of relation with God and His will, especially our dependence upon His grace and guidance.

Our Republic has been ushered in an atmosphere of new internationalism which has divided the world into two camps: Democracy and Communism. We chose to be in the first. We, therefore, had to develop our country in keeping with that atmosphere and our decision. Realizing that we do not live for ourselves and by ourselves alone, and that we are part of a regional neighborhood and community extending beyond its borders, we considered the measure of our value and usefulness in that neighborhood and in the free world to depend on the consistency and success with which we cope with our domestic problems compatible with our free and heroic heritage. Likewise and no less, we considered the preservation of our national integrity above and against outside pressures, well-meaning or otherwise, which are inimical to that heritage. For if we are true to ourselves as a nation, we cannot be false to any neighbor people.

By a fluke of destiny we have developed a special relation with the West, particularly with the United States of America. This relation has created its own problems. We are not indifferent to its advantages. In fact we have always been appreciative and have greatly enjoyed the fruits of that relationship. It has enriched our culture and strengthened the national fabric. But over and above such advantages must remain the primacy of our nation's integrity. We should never again be, in form or in essence, a dependency of any foreign power. This determines our usefulness to ourselves, to our neighbors, and to the free world.

We have always believed that our relation to our immediate neighbors in this part of our world is a broad field for unlimited exploration and cultivation. Geographic propinquity and ethnic affinity virtually impose an opportunity to strengthen mutual knowledge, understanding, and cooperation beyond the call of drinking toasts. So we considered it to be a first duty with us now to be at home to, and with, our next door neighbors. This has been centuries in coming. It does not stand to reason that we can achieve it overnight. But we should be happy to help hasten the move forward.

We can take some pride in the fact that, in recent emergencies requiring cooperation conducive to the general welfare and as against a common peril, we have not only indicated but fulfilled our disposition to share the flower of our manhood in sacrifice.

We have just heard announced in the clearest terms possible before the United Nations the fearsome prospect facing mankind and the alternative to more constructive collaboration in an atomic epoch. Men must choose. Our choice of course must lie in a way of living within the context of freedom, interdependence, and cooperation.

Our country cannot presume to undertake the salvation of Asia and the world. But it can attend to its own development and arrest the growing apprehension of personal insecurity as an aftermath of past political conflicts, in order to reduce its internal tensions on which Communism thrives. By the same token however modest, it can help clear the way to a happy relief of the tensions that now tend to panic the world into the abyss.

On the eve of a change of administration in this country, amid conflicting anticipations divided between fearing a world Armageddon and expecting the millenium from January 1 on, I yield to the notion that our country and the world will be here for sometime yet, irrespective of what we do or fail to do. Both will survive us. And there will be no lack of problems to challenge the best minds of the generations to come.

This we know: The World is crying to be saved. Many more, inspired by the authentic Savior, will arise to take up the cue. I daresay they shall, in varying fashion, do credit to mankind and its Creator—in proportion to the integrity of their impulse, reason, and method.

On this hopeful note, which is simply a variation on the spirit and theme of the holiday season, I now beg, beloved countrymen, to take my leave. In endeavoring to serve your interests, I have given you the best that is in me; at this hour may I add the kindest of my thoughts.

God guide the new administration and preserve our Republic.

Source: **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**

Quirino, E. (1953). President Quirino's 62nd and last monthly radio chat, December 15, 1953. *Official Gazette of the Republic of the Philippines*, 49(10), 5326-5330.

